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# The Guardian

EUROPE



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Star Wars returns

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## Hague sacks Cranborne after Lords deal with Labour unravels

# Tories in turmoil

'It's the end of the party as we know it'

Michael White  
and Ewen MacAskill

**T**HE Conservative Party was riven by an historic split last night after William Hague was forced to sack Lord Cranborne, his leader in the House of Lords, after an unauthorised backstairs deal with Labour over abolition of hereditary voting rights that went spectacularly wrong.

Mr Hague revealed the plan — which would have allowed nearly 100 of the 769 hereditary peers to stay, at least until a fully reformed upper house is established — in a 'mole' exchange with the Commons dispatch box with Tony Blair. Only a handful of key players on either side had known about it.

Mr Hague then faced a revolt by Tory peers, who backed Lord Cranborne's deal by 80 votes to 50 despite Mr Hague's plea for a principled stand over Lords reform. At an emergency shadow cabinet meeting, he promptly sacked Lord Cranborne for what the peer admitted had been "going behind his back" to no for three weeks of talks.

Mr Hague, who only learned the extent of Lord Cranborne's double-dealing yesterday morning, immediately asked to address the weekly meeting of his cabinet. Tory MPs 30 minutes later, MPs endorsed Mr Hague's position even more emphatically than astonished peers had rejected it.

It confirmed a split which, some MPs predicted last night, could either finally ruin the Conservative Party or set it on the road to modernisation, free of centuries of elitist privilege. "This is the way William wants to take us," one Hague aide insisted. It remains a huge gamble with his authority.

Mr Hague's fragile leadership is not under threat — unless the crisis deepens. It was not clear last night how badly he had miscalculated — hoping for a Labour split on the issue — or whether the



William Hague in the Commons yesterday. The Tory leader taunted Tony Blair over Lords reform — only to find his own party badly split on the issue

Labour plan may yet prevail. Lord Cranborne's frontbench team in the Lords offered to resign en bloc in his support.

Even loyal Tory MPs were dismayed. "It's a catastrophe, the end of the party as we now know it," said one. "Blair has played it brilliantly, he's captured our cavalry," conceded another.

Cranborne's behaviour has been unforgivably arrogant," said a third. Most backed Mr Hague's stance, but Tory peers called it "a disastrous miscalculation".

In the pandemonium that followed the unexpected crisis it emerged that Lord Cranborne, a cabinet ally of John Major whose family has been in high Westminster politics for 400 years, had deliberately defied the shadow cabinet's rejection of Labour's compromise offer.

Weeks after being told by Mr Hague that the proposal

drafted by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, was unacceptable, Lord Cranborne tried to bounce his party into accepting it by enlisting the support of senior crossbench peers and hereditary Tory peers who saw it as a lifeline to save them from extinction.

In his letter to Lord Cranborne last night Mr Hague said he had no option but to sack him. "It can never be acceptable for a member of the front bench to seek to bring about a change in the policy of the party without the knowledge or agreement of the party leader or the shadow cabinet," he said.

The crossbenchers have been privately seeking a consensus on Lords reform for two years.

Led by the former Speaker, Lord Weatherill, they were 10 minutes from unveiling the 91-peer deal to a Westminster press conference yesterday

when Mr Hague unexpectedly revealed the plan at Question Time.

Taunting the Prime Minister over "this huge climb-down" on the hereditary peers, Mr Hague said the Tories were "not prepared to acquiesce in that change because we are not prepared to join forces with him on major constitutional change that is based on no comprehensive plan or principle".

Mr Blair, who had expected to announce the deal later yesterday afternoon, recovered quickly from the surprise. "I thought we had the agreement of the leader of your party in the House of Lords. Indeed, I believe we have the agreement."

At the heart of the row was a compromise drafted up behind the scenes by Mr Blair, Lord Cranborne, Lord Irvine and Baroness Jay, the new Labour Leader of the

Lords, that would have smoothed the passage of the Lords reform bill in return for guaranteeing a short reprieve from Death Row for 91 hereditary peers elected by their own parties in proportion to their current strength — 42 Tories, 28 crossbenchers, two Labour and three Lib Dems. How long they would last depends on how long it takes Mr Blair's royal commission to produce "stage 2" reform, a partly elected upper house. Three years, said Downing Street; at least five, said Tories.

Lord Cranborne, whose replacement was named as Lord Strathclyde, later told reporters he had been "sacked for running in like an ill-trained spaniel", to try to cut a deal with Downing Street behind his leader's back for three weeks.

He had offered to resign, but Mr Hague had opted to

sack him. Faced between a choice of "loyalty to my party and to what I believe is right for the constitution, there is no contest", the 52-year-old Tory grandee, heir to the 6th Marquis of Salisbury, said.

The Tories' ability to put up strong resistance to government plans to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers must now be in doubt. Under the plans, most of the 750 hereditary peers will lose their right to sit and vote in stage one of the reform.

Downing Street, which knew it was open to criticism for striking a deal that would preserve peers, justified its position last night by saying the pact could speed up the whole Lords reform process. The Tory split left only a few Labour MPs outraged. Most were gleeful at their party's coup.

Leader comment, page 6

## Crisis talks to end market chaos

Larry Elliott  
and Alex Brummer

**A**N UNPRECEDENTED meeting of world financial leaders is to be convened in Washington next month to implement emergency reforms of the International Monetary Fund and help head off a second bout of global economic turbulence.

The move to hold a special session of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee — the first since it was set up at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944 — comes amid signs that the recent recovery in world markets is stalling, with fresh falls on world stock markets, profits warnings and job losses from multi-national companies, as well as fading hopes of restoring order to the Russian economy.

The meeting will break the normal pattern of a twice-yearly IMF gathering and emphasises the concern at the fragility of the global economy in both the Western countries and the developing world.

This was underlined last night when Wall Street was again gripped by panic selling in the wake of the announcement by Boeing of 48,000 redundancies worldwide. In a separate development, the World Bank revealed that Brazil, Russia, Indonesia and 33 other developing countries — accounting for 1.3 billion people — were likely to suffer falling standards of living this year.

Even the bank's best-case scenario has developing country growth — the engine of recent prosperity — more than halving from 4.8 per cent last year to 2.0 per cent in 1998 and only modest hopes of a recovery in 1999.

Carlo Cini, the Italian finance minister and chairman of the Interim Committee, has won the backing of G7 leaders turn to page 2, column 7

'I said (to Mr Hague) I am extremely sorry that I have behaved outrageously, but I would do it again. I offered my resignation but he said he would rather sack me and I said that if I was in his place, I would have done the same'

Lord Cranborne, above

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Kath Harper  
Transport Editor

**P**LAN to reduce the legal blood alcohol limit from 80mg to 50mg are to be abandoned by the Government to allow police to concentrate on persistent drivers who ignore the present limit.

Government sources confirmed last night that a 10-month investigation into drink-drive reform has produced figures that show a move to lower the limit would save between 30 and 80 lives a year.

A final decision will be

made in the next few months, but ministers appear to have been swayed by the police, who argue that they need more breath testing powers to target persistent drink-drivers.

The decision amounts to a change of heart by ministers, who had been at shadow cabinet's rejection of a plan to limit drivers to one drink with a lower level penalty system of 50mg of alcohol per 100mls of blood. This would have been subject to a fine instead of a ban. Drivers with more than 50mg — the current limit — would have been liable to the usual disqualification and fine or jail.

Within the European Union, five member states have an 80mg limit, nine have 50mg, and Sweden has 20mg. Spain will shortly lower its limit from 80mg to 50mg.

The Government has also abandoned plans to increase police powers to stake out premises, including pub car parks and sports venues, and breathalyse drivers without prior suspicion. Police have told ministers that such a move would be impractical and would require extra staff.

The plan produced an outcry from the rural pub trade, which relies on the private car for most of its business. Save Our Country Pubs, representing some small breweries, said the curb would have sounded "the death knell for many of us".

The police have also told the Government that the plan would not be suitable for keeping surveillance at sporting occasions. They would be unwilling to put extra resources into a rugby or cricket match on the off-chance of picking up a few extra drinks, and already police fixtures, as part of their normal duties.

The transport minister

John Reid said yesterday that the Government was still considering the results of its consultation and an announcement would be made in the new year.

He was speaking at the launch of the Government's Christmas "Don't drink and die" campaign, a series of 15 hard-hitting TV advertisements to be shown between now and New Year's Eve. The 30-second advertisements are based on police videos of road crashes caused by drink-driving.

Dr Reid said: "The intention is to remind the viewer that every day someone

dies as a result of a drink-drive accident. I believe that using real cases drives the message home."

He said that 154,000 people were breathalysed and 9,700 prosecuted last Christmas for drink-driving offences. He warned that alcohol effects could last up to 24 hours.

Kenn Williams, Chief Constable of Norfolk and Vice-Chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, said: "It is important to remind the public that police now breath test all drivers in collisions as a matter of routine."

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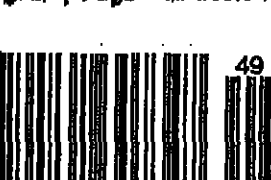
### UK news

Blair vows to use Britain's veto to block unwanted plans for tax harmonisation within the European Union. Page 5

### International

A Jewish knifeman who dresses in ultra-Orthodox garb and stalks Palestinians has claimed another victim. Page 7

Our e-mail address for editorial comments is [europa@guardian.co.uk](mailto:europa@guardian.co.uk)



770261 307347

## Sketch

## New twist for end of the peers show



Simon Hoggart

**H**EAVENS! A real, live news story emerged at Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday. Nobody can recall when this last occurred. It isn't meant to happen. It's like the England batsmen not collapsing, or the Queen burping in public, or Chris Evans saying something funny on TV. It is against the natural order of things.

Prime Minister's Question Time is supposed to resemble a fight in a pub. But yesterday it was a far too fuddled to have any idea what it's about, merely that it's vital to be on the winning side.

Yesterday we astounded sketchwriters had to be helped from the Gallery by kindly colleagues and attendants, and supported to the bar, where we could comfort ourselves with the cup that inebriates but does not cheer.

The person I felt sorry for was Bill Cash, the greatest Eurosceptic of them all. Mr Cash had drawn the first question to the Prime Minister. Europe, and the subject of harmonised taxes, was on every front page yesterday.

Mr Cash uncoiled to his full six foot something, and majestically quoted Churchill (to some sniggers from MPs, who have a suspicion that if our nation ever faces another Darkest Hour, it is improbable that Bill Cash will be called upon to lead us). "Tell the truth to the British people!" he intoned. "They have been misled! The time has come for you to tell us the truth!"

Mr Blair had no such intention. He evaded the question by promising to "represent his country properly and faithfully", whatever that might mean.

On any other day bellicose Tories might have tried to slice him down, like a wood-louse under a lawn strimmer. But yesterday was not that day. Mr Cash's moment of triumph had beckoned and then

disappeared. He looked like the father of the bride learning that the groom has just been spotted fleeing in a taxi to Gatwick airport.

Mr Hague rose and asked, with the mock ingenuousness that always marks his first question, whether the Prime Minister was "happy to see nearly 100 hereditary peers continue to sit in the House of Lords after your forthcoming Bill has been enacted?"

Labour MPs looked astonished. It was the first they had heard of this extraordinary wheeze, the rubber-bladed guillotine as it might be termed. Surely it could not be true? Tell us, Tony, you could almost hear them pleading, tell us it's a lie.

But he didn't. Instead he tried to turn his confirmation into an attack on Mr Hague. "I am delighted to see from your question it is an indication that you are now prepared to agree to what would remove hereditary peers altogether in two stages..."

Labour MPs tried to rally themselves but there was no denying their shock. It was as if Mr Cash's hero were to have told the British people: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, but probably not in the fields or streets. As for surrender, we shall approach that question on a phased basis..."

Mr Hague insisted that the offer represented a "huge climbdown", which it is, though Mr Blair was able to claim triumphantly that the Tory leader in the Lords, Viscount Cranborne, had already agreed to the deal.

Both men said this to each other several times. Their astonishment at actually having to reveal genuine information had clearly robbed both of the power of coherent thought.

Mr Blair had no principles. Mr Blair scoffed that Mr Hague could not even give orders to his leader in the Lords.

In the end Mr Hague said limply that Labour wanted to turn the peers into a House of Cronies, and Mr Blair said: "Your cronies in the Lords agree with me."

When the sketchwriters recovered, we agreed that Mr Blair had won the day. But the sweetest victory must be the utter confusion in the Tory ranks.

## Review

## RSC roars back with Narnia treat

Michael Billington

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*  
Stratford

**W**HWO would have thought it? Rudderless of late in Shakespeare, the RSC recovers its form with Adrian Mitchell's excellent adaptation of C. S. Lewis's children's classic.

The reason, I suspect, has something to do with the company's trust in the story's elements of magic and mystery. Not having read Lewis's book until now, what struck me was its skilful deployment of a whole anthology of myth. Most obviously, in the death and resurrection of Aslan the great lion, it plays on the Christian story.

But a literary myth does not automatically make a theatrical hit. If this one works, it is largely because Adrian Noble's production and Anthony Ward's design find a visual equivalent to the book's image of transformation.

The wardrobe itself is a vast Victorian affair that swivels round to admit the children to an alternative world: one in which the eager Beavers occupy a house that seems to be

assembled from horizontal pencils, the White Witch sits on an illuminated throne, and the Stone Table resembles a giant mill-wheel that ultimately shatters in pieces.

Just occasionally the production descends into kitsch: around the Stone Table we find cutesy leopards in spotted body-stockings, but mostly the production is a visual treat and Mitchell's adaptation both plays fair with Lewis and keeps the story moving. Even Shaun Davey's music, which starts with echoes of Sondheim and ends with a Fair-like chorale, justifies its presence.

Shrewdly, Noble also casts the central quartet from young adults rather than stage-tots. The decision pays off, especially with Rebecca Clarke's fearless, determined middle-class Lucy. Patricia Nalamana also lends Aslan the right dignity and pride, and Estelle Kohler is a voluptuously vicious witch.

Some may jib at the story's traditional, implicitly royalist values. But the secret of the show's success is that it wholeheartedly acknowledges the power of myth and answers our primal hunger for the idea of death and rebirth.

*This review appeared in some editions yesterday.*

After five-month intelligence operation in capital more than 500 officers seize only £80,000 of cannabis

## Police defend drugs raid

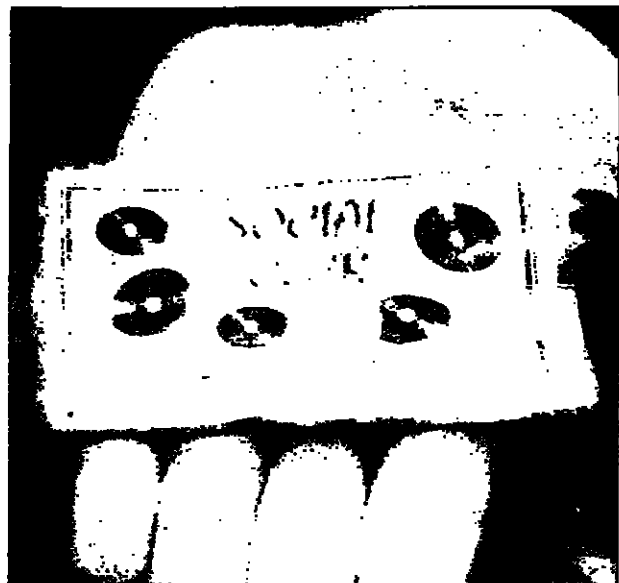


Police during Wednesday's raid, above, and a membership card for the Back Beat Club



## Countdown to police raid

- Operation involved more than 500 police officers, some armed
- Premises observed by intelligence operation for five months
- Stun grenades were thrown, officers with hand guns and semi-automatic weapons abseiled from roof, and a police helicopter hovered overhead
- Police blocked streets in the area, bringing much of the West End to a standstill
- Lorry parked opposite with back-up officers



Amelia Gentleman

**P**OLICE were forced to justify their decision to deploy more than 500 police officers, many of them armed, in the largest and most dramatic drugs operation the capital has seen when it emerged that it had netted only £80,000-worth of cannabis.

The raid, during which officers carrying semi-automatic rifles abseiled from the roof of a four-storey building, was the culmination of a five-month police intelligence operation focused on the Back Beat Club, in a seedy area of central London.

The operation led to 44 arrests. Seventeen people remained in custody last night — but it was not clear whether the club's organisers had been caught.

Although no Class A drugs and no firearms were seized, officers denied that their approach had been heavy-handed. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Todd said: "So far the drugs haul has not been huge, but we wanted to make an impact against major league drug dealers, which we believe these people were."

Christmas shoppers and office workers on their way home were bemused by the sudden appearance of hundreds of officers just before 8pm on Wednesday.

Armed police wearing helmets and bullet-proof body armour abseiled down the side of the club and tried to force their way into the building — but attempts to kick in the fourth-floor windows were foiled when they discovered they had been filled in with concrete breeze-blocks. While some officers attacked the concrete with sledgehammers, more armed police stormed through the steel-reinforced main entrance at street level.

About 30 back-up officers were hiding in the back of a lorry, apparently broken down at the corner of the Charing Cross Road and Denmark Place, where the club is based, while a helicopter hovered overhead.

As police forced their way into the building, hundreds of uniformed officers swarmed into the surrounding streets. Fearing that the raid would meet with heavy armed resistance, police were keen to evacuate the area. In the event, they let off two stun grenades but no shots were fired and no one was injured.

Detectives chose to storm the building in the early evening, hoping to catch the club's owners rather than punters, but they found about 150 members already inside, making the most of the club's reputation as a place where cannabis could be bought and smoked freely.

Jude, aged 26, from Dundee, was inside when the police arrived. "There was a moment of panic then someone shouted 'We've been busted,'" he said. "The police came in carrying guns, told us to lie

on the floor, face down, and handcuffed us. We were searched later on, but I'd already swallowed my drugs, so they let me go."

Hours after the event police spokesmen heralded it as a success, briefing journalists that a "major fortified drug warehouse" understood to be dealing in class A drugs had been uncovered in Denmark Place and hinting that a blow had been struck against Yardie gangsters. Firearms were also said to have been seized.

But it emerged yesterday that the scale and significance of the haul had been radically overplayed. Between £80,000 and £100,000 of cannabis resin was seized along with a further £70,000 in cash. A spokesman said no guns had been found.

But police said it would be 48 hours before they finished searching the labyrinthine network of rooms inside the building — which stretches about 100 yards along the north side of the alleyway — adding that there were at least three more safes still to be searched.

Police uncovered a drug-dealing room on the top floor,

**'The drugs haul has not been huge, but we wanted to make an impact against major league drug dealers'**

where punters could buy cannabis by pushing £10 or £20 notes through an internal letter box and receiving a small bag from a gloved hand through the slot in return. The street, on the fringes of Soho and the theatreland, will remain sealed until the search is complete.

Back Beat Club members yesterday expressed surprise at the police's response. Jimmy, aged 41, an IT expert and father-of-one, said: "It was just an Amsterdam-style coffee house — people just went there to smoke dope, nothing else was available. This seems to have been a complete over-reaction."

Scotland Yard would not reveal how many the five-month operation had cost, but Mr Todd insisted it could not have succeeded on a smaller scale.

"We needed to ensure the safety of the public inside the club and in the surrounding area and we used a large number of armed officers because of this. If we had had a low level operation it would not have worked because the building was designed to frustrate police."

## Animal rights 'hit list'

## Militants threaten to murder 10 people if hunger striker dies

Will Woodward

**A**MILITANT animal rights group yesterday threatened to kill 10 people on a "hit list" if the jailed hunger striker Barry Horne dies.

Mr Horne was on the 57th day of his protest at the Government's refusal to promise a royal commission on vivisection. Friends said he was on the verge of a coma and was virtually blind and deaf.

Police said they were drawing up plans to counter an expected backlash if Mr Horne died. In a statement, the Animal Rights Militia identified four of the 10 people it said it intended to kill.

Mr Horne, aged 46, of Northampton, has been moved from Full Sutton prison, where he is serving an 18-year sentence for arson, to York District Hospital. He is receiving about 40 cards a day from supporters, who accuse the Government of breaking a pre-election pledge. Even if he resumes eating, doctors put his chances of survival at less than 70 per cent.

A spokesman for the Animal Betrayed Coalition, an umbrella group supporting Mr Horne's protest, said: "If Barry dies there's going to be a lot of anger. How people express that anger will be in a multitude of ways."

Robin Webb, press officer for the Animal Liberation Front, said the Animal Rights Militia, which emerged in 1984, was responsible for several letter bombs, though no one had been seriously injured. The ARM issued a warning during Mr Horne's first hunger strike, which ended in February 1997, that it would kill five people.

The Home Office said it was "not prepared to allow policy to be dictated by blackmail".

## IMF talks on markets crisis

continued from page 1  
to hold the crisis meeting in an attempt to speed up proposals on curbing the excesses of hedge funds, setting up a new global financial regulator to head off financial collapses, to introduce new disciplines on governments and to ensure that the poor are protected in the aftermath of the recent turmoil.

Ministers are also keen to see root and branch reforms of the IMF — widely criticised for its handling of the Southeast Asian meltdown — put at the top of the agenda, with greater powers to act at times of emergency. This means giving greater voice to the powerful developing countries, such as China and

Brazil, which have been key players during the unfolding economic drama of the past 18 months.

Britain and America have been at the forefront of the effort to accelerate reform of the creaking world financial system, and believe that the arrival of a new left-of-centre government in Germany will help reinforce the pressure for change.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is determined that the momentum should be maintained for a new global regulator to head off market crises such as that caused by the collapse of the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund.

The new regulator would

bring together central bankers, stock markets such as the American Securities and Exchange Commission and the IMF in a bid to co-ordinate action to prevent the spread of global financial contagion.

The new global watchdog — connected by hotlines to individual central banks and country regulators — would be ready to step in when there was a risk of the sort of economic or financial collapse that spread from Russia to Western markets in August.

One of the key issues for the meeting will be imposing new rules on accountability and transparency, which will force individual nations to open their books to IMF and public scrutiny.



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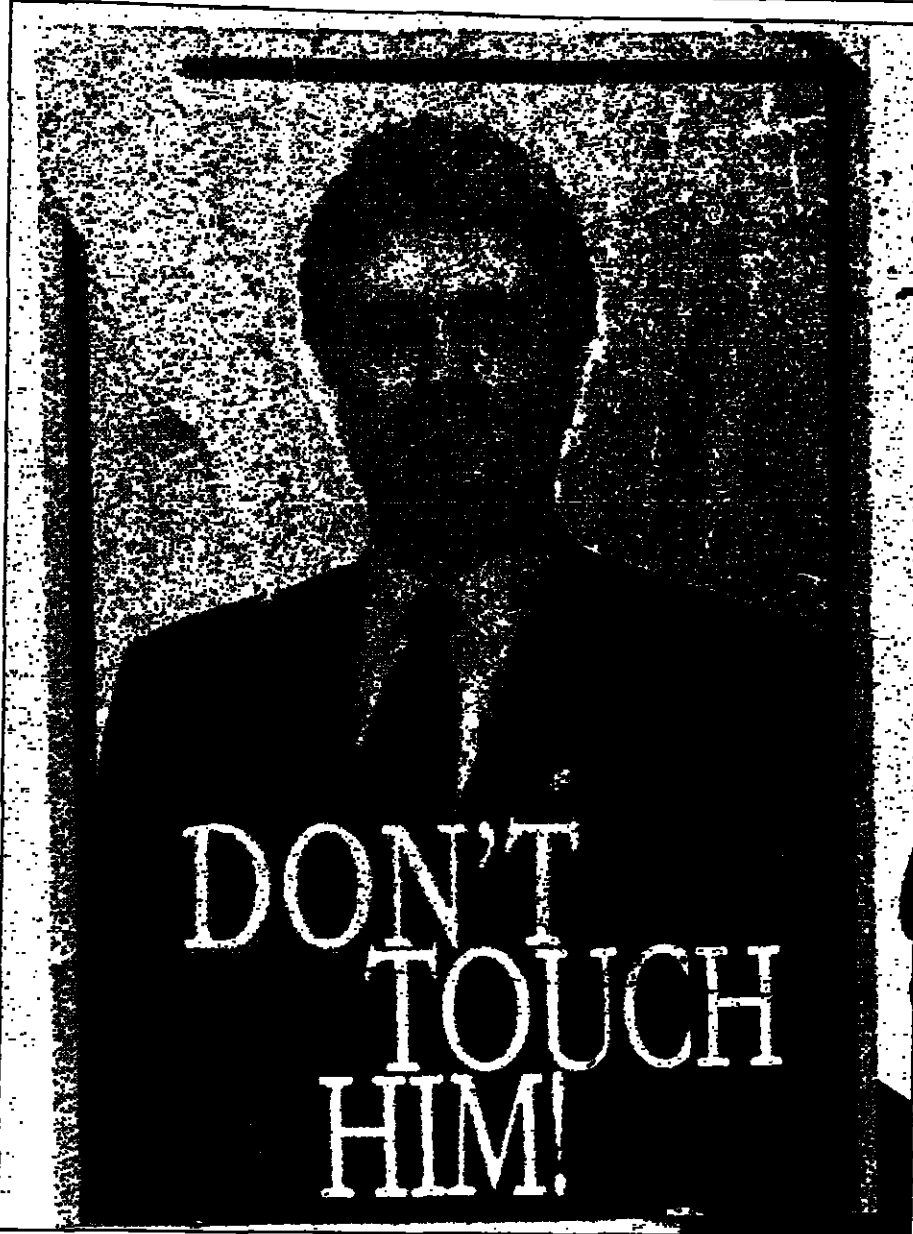
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Posters of the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (left), in his stronghold of Pale, warn Nato troops not to try to capture him. He is believed to have a large troupe of bodyguards (right)

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: ZIVAN JOVANOVIC

# US puts price on Karadzic's head

## £3m bounty for Bosnian Serb war crimes suspects

Martin Kettle in Washington and Ian Black in London

**T**HE United States has put a price of up to \$5 million (£3 million) on the heads of the top Bosnian Serb war crime suspects Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, according to nor-

crossingly "get-tough" strategy against the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, and his policy of giving refuge to war crime suspects. Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, said US troops in the Nato-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia (S-For) had detained General Radislav Krstic and were preparing to transport him to The Hague. Gen Krstic, the commander of the Drina Corps of the Bosnian Serb army, is charged with crimes committed after the fall of the UN safe area of Srebrenica in July 1995, where thousands of Muslims were massacred. Uniquely, he is charged in respect of "direct personal involvement" as well as being responsible for the actions of those under his authority.



General Radislav Krstic: Seized for trial in The Hague

The only other suspect to face genocide charges committed suicide in custody. In London the Foreign

Office said: "We welcome this very much. It's a further step towards justice in Bosnia and an indication of the international community's resolve to act when the authorities themselves do not fulfil their obligations to transfer indictees to The Hague." Mr Solana said the detention had been carried out in line with S-For's mandate, which authorises it to detain indicted war criminals encountered in the course of its duties. He said the days of freedom were numbered for indictees still at large. The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Louise Harbour of Canada, was delighted, calling Gen Krstic "a very significant military leader". Gen Krstic, indicted by the tribunal in October, is believed to be a

close associate of Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic. The US administration is also offering \$5 million for the arrest of Milan Martić, the leader of the now defunct Serb Krajina area of Croatia. Smaller amounts are being offered for other suspects. US state department officials met this week to agree a "most wanted" list based on more than two dozen suspects still at large. Reactions in Bosnia were mixed. "I'm very pleased that one of... the executors of genocide, the destruction of the entire population of a wide region of Bosnia, made it to The Hague," said Amor Masovic, the head of the Bosnian Muslim commission for missing people. "I expect his arrest to un-

veil important facts related to the missing of more than 8,000 people from Srebrenica." In Sarajevo the Bosnian Muslim leadership welcomed the arrest and expressed hope that Nato would now focus on apprehending the key architects of the war. "We welcome this arrest and particularly the fact that they have started arresting generals," said Mirza Hajric, the adviser to the Bosnian Muslim member of the joint presidency, Alija Izetbegovic. "We hope they will soon switch over to commanders." But Petar Djokic, president of the Bosnian Serb parliament, said Gen Krstic's arrest on a secret indictment "brings uncertainty to people, a feeling that every citizen of Republika Srpska [the Bos-

nian Serb entity] can be regarded as a potential war criminal in the eyes of the tribunal, and that S-For is authorised to arrest anybody, anytime, anywhere." The US state department spokesman, James Rubin, neither confirmed nor denied the report in yesterday's Newsday newspaper. It said the bounty system would be funded under the state department's rewards programme, which has so far concentrated mainly on payments in the international drug war. The recently expanded legislation authorising such payments offers "rewards for information concerning individuals sought for serious violations of international humanitarian law relating to the former Yugoslavia".

## 'He's never been away, he's still in the area'

Chris Bird in Pale on the elusive trail of Bosnian war criminals wanted for trial

**I**N THE ski resort town of Pale, 10 miles east of Sarajevo, grim-faced Serbs trudge through the slush, the first snowfall of winter. Alpine chalets dot the Jahorina mountains surrounding the town. The place is pure, filled with the buzz of chainsaws as men in checked shirts cut logs. Below the town, a convoy of three United States army Humvees jeeps with heavy machine-guns mounted on top and a military helicopter circling overhead — part of the 35,000-strong Nato-led stabilisation force (S-For) — remind you this is war-torn Bosnia. Dotted on the hillside are portraits of Radovan Karadzic, the former leader of the Bosnian Serbs who stood for three years at the heart of Bosnia's darkness. Wanted by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, he is in hiding, probably near Pale. He conducted the war with his trusted Bosnian Serb lieutenant, General Ratko Mladic — also wanted by The Hague — from the Hotel Panorama above Pale. Once the informal capital of his Republika Srpska, the town used to be chock full of Yugoslav army troops, Serb irregulars and Mr Karadzic's political court. The stickers, illegal under the 1995 peace agreement which forbids Mr Karadzic any political role in Bosnia, appear to be all that is left. But they warn any patrolling Nato soldier, in English: "Don't touch him."

All his old political cronies have dropped him for fear of losing their jobs at the hands of the de facto Western protectorate — the Office of the High Representative (OHR) — which now rules the Balkan state with sweeping powers. "Doctor Karadzic is a symbol of resistance for the Serb people in a certain period," says Nikola Poplasen, the newly elected "president" of the Serb half of Bosnia in its new capital, Banja Luka, in the west. He was humiliated last month when British S-

For troops expelled Vojislav Seselj, an extremist Serb nationalist politician, from neighbouring Yugoslavia. Mr Karadzic's former deputy, and until September the Bosnian Serbs' president, Biljana Plavcic, is equally circumspect. "I have no contact with him, his policies are in the realm of the past." But Western officials say Mr Karadzic is still a corrosive influence on the fragile peace won at Dayton, Ohio, in 1995. Ms Plavcic, with her grey hair and tweed skirts, might look like a headmistress but her politics are as extreme as those of Mr Karadzic. "Serbs wish to remain inside their own entity in Bosnia. A multi-ethnic entity is not good," she says. Such talk is inimical to Western efforts

men and women mutilated and slaughtered, children killed before their mothers' eyes, a grandfather forced to eat the liver of his own grandson. These are truly scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of human history." Officially, the West is going all out to hunt down Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic. But Western officials appear divided about how and when to arrest them. "We have no idea where Mr Karadzic was," says a senior Western official based in Banja Luka, where British troops (40 per cent of S-For) are headquartered. "It will be the British who will lift him, they don't care [about bodybags]," says a senior Western official based in Banja Luka, where British troops (40 per cent of S-For) are headquartered. "It will be the British who will lift him, they don't care [about bodybags]," says a senior Western official based in Banja Luka, where British troops (40 per cent of S-For) are headquartered. "It will be the British who will lift him, they don't care [about bodybags]," says a senior Western official based in Banja Luka, where British troops (40 per cent of S-For) are headquartered.

**'It will need a large force to take him'**

W. & J. GRAHAM'S  
ESTABLISHED 1870

Consummate (könsu... ME. [- Fr. quintessence, quinte essence - med.L. q... fifth essence.] 1. The 'fifth essence' of ancient philosophy, supposed to be the substance of which heavenly bodies were composed. 2. The most refined essence of older chemistry, an alcoholic tincture obtained by distillation in 1576. b. The purest or most perfect form of quality 1570. c. The most perfect embodiment of persons, etc. 1590. d. The highest perfection or liability to sin; (of thing) surpassing, so impressive. Quintessence n. Th form or manifestation

*The Quintessential Port.*



## In G2 EUROPE today: children or crack — which would you choose?

Also, how the Women's Institute has become a hotbed of British radicalism

### 'Can pay, won't pay' say anti-tuition fee students

Balliol encounters ideology as undergraduates risk suspension for revolt over tax on learning.  
Rory Carroll reports from Oxford

THEIR brilliance already established, academic acclaim beckoned. And Oxford University opened its portals last October confident that in these two school-leavers it had yet again bagged Britain's best and brightest.

Yesterday, Kate Atkinson, aged 18, and Alice Nash, aged 19, showed the authorities that they were indeed in the mould of illustrious predecessors, but the pair have stumbled into one of Balliol College's lesser known traditions — student radicalism.

The symptoms spread like wildfire: threats of suspension, showdowns on points of principle, common rooms passing motions of revolt, journalists doorstepping deans, even a whiff of ideology. The reason — Ms Atkinson and Ms Nash are refusing to pay their £1,000 tuition fees. Not because they cannot, but because they will not.

They are risking meteoric academic careers on behalf of future generations of students too poor to attend university. Yesterday, huddles of fellow students watched them in the common room fielding media

requests for interviews. A press release was being drafted and journalists were being evicted. It all seemed to be getting out of hand.

It was not supposed to be like this. Ms Atkinson, from Plumpton, Brighton, is studying politics, philosophy and economics. She was deputy head girl at Britain's most prestigious girls' school, Roedean, where she got A grades in maths, French, history and Latin A levels. Her father is a civil servant who works at Peter Mandelson's Department of Trade and Industry, her mother a tennis coach.

Ms Nash, who is studying history, left Britain's top sixth form college, Hills Road in Cambridge, with A grades in history, English, biology, French and general studies. Her mother, Judith, is a nurse at a Cambridge theology college and her father, Peter, is a self-employed computer consultant.

Balliol's lustre was due to shine yet more. But then the Government introduced £1,000-a-year tuition fees, a move condemned by Oxford's junior common rooms. Some freshers paid their £1,000 into

the non-payment campaign's Midland bank account.

Ms Nash and Ms Atkinson were two such freshers and they obtained their parents' backing. "We are not wanting to draw attention to ourselves, so much as the protest and the principle," said Ms Nash, who translates computer programs into French to make money.

Newspapers were begging for interviews and articles, peers were queuing to murmur good wishes and Ms Nash had an essay to worry about on how far the medieval church satisfied the needs of the laity.

The protests, however, will flare the moment they are suspended, predicted Ricken Patel, the 21-year-old president of Balliol's common room. Completed questionnaires and motions from other common rooms showed there was strong support for disruption, he said.

Suspension, which will take effect from the start of next term, would effectively end the women's academic careers. Both intend to delay paying until just before that happens, but they run the risk of being suspended without warning.

If the two students miss Friday's deadline to pay, Balliol will pass their names to university authorities and they will be banned from taking exams. If they do not pay by the end of next term they

could also be evicted from their residency.

Andrew Graham, Master of Balliol, was unavailable for comment. The university, which has set up a scheme to help poor students pay fees, is reluctant to suspend students who cannot pay, but not those who refuse to pay.

Government talk of using the fees to fund an unprecedented expansion of third-level education cuts no ice with Ms Atkinson or Ms Nash, who claim the means-testing breaches the education act. "The Government can't get away with this. It'll affect future generations," said Ms Atkinson. "This is crunch time."

Balliol, founded in the 13th century, acquired a post-war reputation for leftwing student radicalism. Both women were cagey about being cloaked in the legacy.

"I'm aware that in that sense we're carrying on tradition, but I didn't come here to cause trouble. I want to get a degree," said Ms Atkinson.

Ideally they want the fees abolished, but, wanting to be constructive, they accept there is an education cash crisis and so suggest alternative methods of funding, such as a graduate tax.

Balliol authorities convinced leftwing activism is about to make a comeback may disbelieve it, but both women are adamant. "We're not going into politics."



Kate Atkinson (left) and Alice Nash... drawing attention to the principle rather than themselves

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLES

### Royal Court avoids offending Queen with play on words to keep £3m gift

Don Gishler  
Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Court Theatre has come up with a convoluted compromise which enables it to keep a \$3 million donation from the Jerwood Foundation and not offend the Queen.

Previously, the Queen had ruled out the use of the name

Jerwood before the word royal when the theatre proposed changing its name in return for the donation.

The refurbished theatre, due to open next autumn, will still have the words "Royal Court Theatre" on the facade of its Sloane Square home. But above that a neon sign will bear the words "The Jerwood Theatres at the Royal Court".

Inside, audiences — should they not already be too befuddled by the range of names on offer — will be able to choose between the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs.

The agreement between the Jerwood Foundation, a charitable trust that supports the arts, and the Royal Court, ran into problems when it emerged that the Jerwood

was insisting on its name being included in the name of the theatre.

The \$3 million donation from the Jerwood means that the Royal Court is the first big capital project backed by the National Lottery to have raised all of its matching funding.

The Royal Court has been granted a total of £18 million from the lottery.

Under lottery rules, it had to raise 25 per cent of the total redevelopment cost of £5.8 million, or about £7 million, from other sources.

The Royal Court chairman, Sir John Mortimer, welcomed the compromise yesterday. "I am enormously relieved that the negotiations have been happily resolved and we can now go forward to provide a rebuilt and hugely improved

theatre for new writing." But Alan Grieve, Jerwood chairman, revealed that the compromise was only reached after much debate.

"We have had a robust debate on our proposed capital funding of the Royal Court and shared praise and criticism in equal measure."

"We have now achieved a reasoned way forward." The Royal Court artistic di-

rector, Ian Rickson, warned that the difficulties the theatre had faced in raising matching funding would emerge if the RUC, and an ad hoc committee of trustees around the country as more lottery-fuelled schemes approached completion.

"There's real donor fatigue out there," he said.

"When the lottery was set up bureaucrats made notional predictions based on nothing.

We've been fortunate to get through, but it will be an issue for the whole country."

Large, lottery-backed projects, including the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside and the Royal Opera House, still have substantial sums to raise.

Sadler's Wells opened in September despite not having raised all its matching funding.

### Met is sued on 'racial assault' 11 years ago

Jamie Wilson

A 23-YEAR-OLD man yesterday told the High Court how he had been punched, kicked and subjected to a torrent of racial abuse by Metropolitan police officers when he was a schoolboy aged 12.

Jermaine Jauvel, of the Elephant and Castle, south east London, is suing the Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, for damages arising out of his arrest and subsequent prosecution for assaulting a police officer.

Opening the case before Mr Justice Popplewell, Rajiv Menon, representing Mr Jauvel, told the jury that they would be trying "the behaviour of the police".

"This is a case about lost innocence and how a child in a matter of hours can experience something which you may feel no child should have to experience."

"This is a case about the reality of being black in an English city," Mr Menon told the jury.

Mr Menon told the jury that because of the time that had elapsed since the incident took place "very senior officers" would be giving evidence, including Stephen Pilkington, now the chief constable of Avon and Somerset, and two superintendents.

"Don't be put off by any smooth talking police officer that they would never racially abuse or tolerate violence against a child. Don't be fooled by that," Mr Menon said.

"Racism is something which is no longer denied by the Metropolitan police like it was in years gone past. It is now accepted by the commissioner that there are racist officers among the Metropolitan police."

In his evidence Mr Jauvel, who now works as a musician, told the court that at the time of the incident he was a first year pupil at St Joseph's Academy, an all boys school in south London.

He was trying to catch a bus home from the Riverdale Centre in Lewisham when a constable, who had been trying to clear the area of young people, poked him on the shoulder with his finger and told him to leave the shopping centre.

As Mr Jauvel was walking outside he accidentally bumped into the police officer who grabbed him by the shirt collar, ripping off two buttons, the jury was told.

"He put his arm around my neck so that I had difficulty breathing. I was then lifted off the ground by another three officers; two had hold of my feet and two had hold of my arms."

Mr Jauvel described how he was carried back inside the centre where he was "kicked on the bottom and kicked in the face" by the police.

He said he heard his friend, Lana Chamberlin, who was 13 at the time, crying and screaming and saw her being slapped.

"In the police van a woman police officer was calling me racist names, like black



Jermaine Jauvel... "This is about being black in an English city"

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES HORTON

bastard and black shit and to go back to where I belonged."

He was later charged with assaulting a police officer, but the case was thrown out before Mr Jauvel was required to give evidence.

"The police evidence was not taken into account because they told lies," he said.

Earlier Mr Menon said the police commissioner "had refused to accept that Jermaine should never have been arrested and had refused

to accept that he had been unlawfully assaulted or racially abused."

"Indeed, he is blaming Jermaine Jauvel and saying the officers' actions were justified." The hearing continues.

### 'Hysteria' over RUC hits talks

John Mullin on the tussle for police reform which could prove yet another stumbling block

TONY Blair returned to Belfast last night, desperate to push forward the stalled political process in Northern Ireland. He was trying to secure a deal on the make-up of devolved ministries and north-south bodies, but there are even tougher problems ahead.

The impasse over IRA decommissioning of weapons is the obvious block to progress even if David Trimble, First Minister, and Seamus Mallon, Deputy First Minister, manage to agree on government departments and cross-border institutions — they need to settle matters this week to ensure legislation is passed in time for the assembly to go live in February.

There is no sign that the IRA is preparing to hand over weapons to the International Commission on Decommissioning. Ulster Unionists demand some IRA disarmament before Sinn Féin joins the power-sharing executive: Sinn Féin says there is no such requirement in the Good Friday Agreement.

But even if a "fudge" can be found to entice the parties out of their corners, another spectre looms. It is six months before Chris Patten's Independent Commission on Policing will report on its recommendations for RUC reform — but its public meetings have been generating such hysteria that the fall-out from the report is likely to eclipse the rows over decom-

missioning and the release of paramilitary prisoners.

Take Derry on Tuesday. First, the commission visited the Waterside, the predominantly Protestant district. There, it heard some criticism of the RUC, and an admission that there had to be cuts. But the overwhelming message was: no wholesale change. Or else.

Mr Patten and his commissioners nipped across the River Foyle to feverishly nationalist Bogside. They listened to a two-hour, anti-RUC diatribe. The thrust: disband the RUC and form a new devolved service with ex-paramilitaries welcome. Or else.

The commission, which has received submissions from all the political parties, is now on a 30-date tour to meet the people. Mr Patten refuses to say much, except diplomatically to describe each exercise as "constructive".

Unionists accuse Sinn Féin of manipulating the commission's meetings. They claim that, with the long-running fight to free prisoners now won, the party's resources are being switched to the policing debate. Supporters are being coached in what to say.

They point as an example to last month's row over Donegal Celtic's semi-final cup-tie with the RUC. The west Belfast club wanted to play, and voted to do so. But it was forced to back out, citing Sinn Féin pressure: its players, it says, were threatened.

Bairbre de Brun, Sinn

Fein's spokesperson on policing, denied accusations of coercive tactics at the commission's meetings. "Nationalist anger and resistance to the RUC is real, it's not the product of manipulation."

Sinn Féin wants an unarmed police force of 3,000 to replace the 76-year-old RUC, which now has 11,500 officers. It wants 45 per cent of them to be Catholic, and a screening process that excludes "human rights violators". Ex-terrorists should be eligible to join. This upsets even moderate Unionists. They point out that 302 RUC officers were assassinated during the troubles.

The commission's key decisions will be on disbanding and membership. And how Mr Patten sat both sides — enjoying no common ground — will determine the peace process.

Yesterday, a poignant reminder not to let peace slip came not from politicians but from one of the last victims of the Omagh bombing to leave Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast. Pauline Green, aged 19, who suffered 30 per cent burns and partial amputation of her left leg, told the negotiators: "Peace is within our grasp now... everyone wants it. Keep talking."

More than 80 children traumatised by the bombing on August 15, which claimed 29 lives and injured 350, are undergoing specialist counselling, it emerged yesterday. They are among hundreds suffering problems.

### British ambassador severely rebuked for 'deplorable' action

Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITISH ambassador was severely rebuked yesterday in a damning report by the parliamentary ombudsman, who described the envoy's conduct over a consular complaint as "extraordinary and wholly deplorable".

In a report which contains unprecedented criticism of Foreign Office officials, the ombudsman, Michael Buckley, describes the response by the department to the complaint as "disingenuous" and castigated the Foreign Office

for refusing to apologise for the ambassador's indefensible action.

The report does not name the ambassador. Nor does it identify the complainant — a company representative who criticised locally-employed consular staff in an unnamed but apparently Third World

country. The complainant, a British citizen, was obliged to resign from his company after the ambassador criticised the man's conduct in a letter to his chief executive. The company, also not identified, was a government contractor.

The employee complained

in 1994 about having to pay a fee to the British consul for a letter of introduction to obtain a tourist visa from another country. He described the consular staff as "officious, unhelpful, and rude".

He suggested that the consulate "might benefit from employing more British staff (particularly housewives) or from better training".

The ambassador subsequently passed the man's letters of complaint to the company's chief executive, without the employee's knowledge. Mr Buckley de-

scribed the explanation by the Foreign Office's then top diplomat that the ambassador did not expect his actions to lead to the employee's resignation as "disingenuous".

The Foreign Office's refusal to apologise is described by Mr Buckley as "maladministration in itself".

Sir John Kerr, head of the Diplomatic Service, has now apologised to Mr Buckley, and the Foreign Office has agreed to give the former company employee an ex gratia payment of £5,000, but no disciplinary action has been taken against the ambassador. The Foreign Office yesterday refused to say if he was still a serving diplomat.





Marion McRae (left) and Linda Gorman, who were helped by the Family Service Unit

PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MURDO



The Guardian's Christmas appeal gives readers the opportunity to make a donation to up to eight small but important charities. Today, **Gerard Seenan** reports on the work of one, the Family Services Unit, which supports families in some of Britain's most deprived inner city areas

# Snatched from jaws of Pilton's poverty trap

Gerard Seenan

**G**REATER Pilton is Irvine Welsh land: urban deprivation held together by poverty and a heroin hangover, but without the chic imposed by celluloid glamour and good-looking movie stars. Rows of barely functional housing sit depressingly en masse in this Edinburgh district, only the occasional derelict scumbling marking where a former block has been ripped down. Windows are

boarded up with rusting metal grilles, New York-style graffiti dabs shop fronts. But in every second doorway or so there is a different story to be told. Neat curtains are tied back to let the light in, front stairs are swept free of dirt, children play on postage-stamp patches of grass, mothers fold their arms in front of their chests, ears cocked for gossip or concern. "It is difficult to be happy in Pilton," admits Linda Gorman. "It's grey and depressing and there's an awful lot of poverty. People here can't go out

for a meal or go to the pictures when they're fed up. There's nothing but the television and it is really easy to become isolated. "It's only by seeing that everybody else has the same problems as me that I get through it."

Ms Gorman has been using the estate's Family Service Unit for the past few years. She went there after developing an alcohol problem, she says. "I was isolated, stuck in the house with no self confidence. I'd just had a baby. But when I came to the FSU I realised other people here felt that way too, and I could cope."

The Edinburgh Family Service Unit helps about 100 adults and 250 children each week. Many have similar problems to Linda's, others are affected variously by drug, domestic violence, depression, poor housing, money worries, HIV and Aids. All stem from poverty.

Like Dahl, management of the unit, says: "Unemployment here is horrendously high. There's all the fall-out problems of HIV from the heroin epidemic in the eighties. Much of the housing is terrible. No buses come in to the estates, there's no bank, only one supermarket. We might hire a bus for Christmas shopping — they can't afford to waste what little money they have getting there."

The statistics show that 43 per cent of households in Greater Pilton have no earners, and 45 per cent of children under five are in single parent households. As heroin gripped the estates, the mortality rate in Greater Pilton was 27 per cent more than expected for the entire Edinburgh region.

"I watched my family die, my friends die and people who I went to school with," says Marion McKee, of the FSU local committee. "There were already problems with poverty and the sense of community being lost, but heroin took away almost a whole generation. On top of that, there's the relentless poverty that damages everybody who lives here."

Most of the groups, schemes and programmes run by the Edinburgh FSU are preventative in nature and perhaps a little aspirational. It is virtually unknown for anyone from Pilton to enter tertiary education, so the FSU has brought in fifth and sixth year pupils from private schools and well-regarded comprehensives to help younger children with their homework. "If they see that there's this big person who's going to university, then that helps," says Ms Dahl.

Besides the playgroups and summer trips — "We took 12 of them water skiing. Who in Pilton could afford to take their own water skiing without this?" — the toy libraries and the clean second hand clothes where a babygrow at 50p is within budget, the FSU helps with relationships.

"I was in a victim of domestic violence and I was clinically depressed. Social services couldn't give me counselling and I couldn't afford it. But the FSU helped me get out of the relationship. They gave me a hand when I needed it," says Ms McKee. In the common room, Ms Dahl talks about the figures needed to keep the FSU running for another year: £25,000 for the playgroup, tens of thousands more for else-where. Ms Gorman points out the toy library, a few streets away.

"It's where I got a plastic car for my wee boy Robbie. I couldn't afford to buy him one at the time and it made such a difference. Simple thing really, but a big help."

## The charity

Based in some of the country's poorest inner city areas, Family Service Units provide emergency and long-term assistance to families in crisis.

Every year, the FSU helps 6,000 families living on some of the country's most deprived estates.

Founded in 1948 to provide support for the families impoverished by war, the organisation has adapted its services to cope with the demands of modern poverty. Some 40 per cent of service users are from minority groups.

Each of the 21 units acts as a one-stop shop, offering a diverse selection of services — from counselling, to parenting classes, working with victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse, offering anti-bullying classes, refugee and benefits advice, mental health support projects and providing toy libraries.

FSU workers provide intensive, time-consuming support in a way which social workers cannot. People who are wary of state provided help often turn to the FSU instead. £100 will pay to set up a toy library

## Schoolboy coolly chose suicide

Sarah Hall

**A** BRILLIANT schoolboy and talented musician killed himself after meticulously weighing up the pros and cons in a diary over two months, an inquest heard yesterday.

Fifteen-year-old Dario Iacopini, a pupil at the grant-maintained London Oratory school, calmly analysed his existence — and recorded just before his death: "On balance, life is not good."

The "deep-thinking" choirboy — who gained six A and A\* GCSEs a year early — then took his father's shotgun, wedged a wooden spoon in the trigger, and used his foot to fire a shot through his head, at his family's home in Belling, west London, last month.

The inquest, at West London coroner's court, in Fulham, heard that the schoolboy had hoped to study law at Harvard or Yale.

To his family, Dario, who played the violin in a local youth orchestra, showed no signs of depression — but the five volumes of diaries he filled over a year revealed he was preoccupied with religion, philosophy, life and death.

John Burton, the coroner, told the court: "On the very last entry in the diary there are two pages of pros and cons and he came down on the side of suicide. He was very stoical about it. He did not fear death. He described death as neutral. He decided that on balance life is not good and points out that the mathematics he has used are indisputable."

He continued: "With some young people you think they don't appreciate what they are doing but he had analysed what he was doing... He has been thinking about the way

he would die, planning it, organising it, and analysing if there is a purpose in life."

He realised he needed a "window of opportunity" when his parents were away to carry out his aim — and killed himself on November 3, as his mother, Seleni, a teacher, attended an amateur dramatic society meeting and his father, Pietro, a translator, was in Switzerland on business.

He took just one cartridge for the clay pigeon shooting gun, which he had secretly learned to use. His body, slumped in the spare room, was found by the family's lodger, a 20-year-old student.

The court heard that his diaries made no mention of bullying and that drugs and alcohol had played no part. After the inquest, the boy's father, who did not attend, said: "We had no idea he was planning on taking his life. He never showed any sign of depression."

He added: "Dario was a most serene boy and very, very clever. He was a very mature young boy — more mature than us. As you can imagine, we are all terribly distraught."

Dr Burton recorded a verdict of suicide.

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Audit promise pre-empts vote on salaries and expenses. **Martin Walker** in Brussels reports

# Labour MEPs promise 'clean regime'

**B**RITAIN'S 60 Labour MEPs will pre-empt today's vote in the European Parliament on members' pay and expenses with a joint pledge for a "clean regime". They plan to subject all their future financials to an independent financial audit by British accountants, which will then be published.

After a long day of debate yesterday on a new statute for MEPs to be paid a common salary and be subject to a more rigorous check on their expenses, the outcome of today's vote in the European Parliament is too close to call. A similar vote last month failed after 12 Tory and three Labour MEPs voted against reform.

MEPs' expenses and allowances, worth more than £100,000 a year each, constitute the longest-running scandal in European politics. Members were last night still fighting hard to retain the

current system under which they are paid first-class return airfares to their constituencies for every session, whether or not they have travelled.

"This is the taxpayer's money we are using, so we are going to be fully and openly accountable to the taxpayer for the way we spend this money," Labour MEP leader Alan Donnelly told The Guardian yesterday.

From now on, we Labour MEPs and candidates have decided as a group that we will get repaid only for the exact amount we spend on travel. This has not been imposed by London. This was done at our own suggestion.

The Labour MEPs have also signed up to promise a "fair deal" for all their secretarial and research staff, with a guarantee of British pay and employment conditions for employees, who can currently be hired and fired at will. "The European Parliament

## MEPs' entitlements

- 1: Secretarial staff — up to £6,585.60 per month
  - 2: Office running costs, phones etc — £2,263.30 per month
  - 3: Travel, first-class return air fare plus taxis for each parliament session and parliament committee meeting. No checks are made whether the money was spent on the journey made
- Plus a) an extra £2,100 a year for other travel; and  
b) £161.70 per day subsistence allowance for meals, drinks and hotels incurred on any day of official travel

has to be seen to be above suspicion, and if the full parliament will not vote to clean itself up, both expenses and in the conditions we offer our staff, we are determined to do it for ourselves," Mr Donnelly added.

Each MEP gets £6,580 a month to pay for secretarial and research staff, both in Europe and back in the constituency. Some MEPs have as many as five staff members to service a constituency which in population is equivalent

to seven Westminster constituencies.

Under Labour's system, each MEP would be allowed to keep at least one staff member, but has signed a pledge to pass over an unspecified part of their allowance to the Labour Party to establish a series of new regional MEP service centres across Britain. With a total income for all 60 Labour MEPs of more than £4.7 million a year in staff allowances, this could finance a significant regional network.

All the Labour candidates selected for next June's election have committed themselves to pooling resources with others in the region "to co-ordinate representational information, press and campaigning functions".

Labour rebels immediately condemned the plan as "another example of Millbank's control-freak mentality", and as a back-door way for the Labour Party to build and finance a regional organisation back in Britain and get Europe to pay for it.

"This is quite wrong and I think it is illegal," said sacked Labour MEP Ken Coates, expelled from the Labour group last year. "These expenses are for the members to do their job, not to finance the Labour Party back in Britain. This is all about the Labour Party machine getting its mucky paws on the members' money." The reform to be voted on today calls for all members to

receive the same pay, of £5,960 a month, and to be reimbursed only for the travel they can prove with bills.

The problem is that currently each MEP is paid the same as MPs in countries' national parliaments. So Italian MEPs are the richest, with more than £7,000 a month in pay, while the Spaniards are poorest, with just under £2,700 a month.

The Spaniards claim that they need the generous expenses and allowances system in order to live in expensive cities such as Brussels and Strasbourg, where the parliament is located.

"Naturally the Spaniards are all in favour of reform, and the Italians are understandably reluctant to lose income, but it looks as though we have solidarity from the Socialist MEPs all across Europe to vote for this reform," a Socialist group spokesman said yesterday.

## Fury at Santer as new EU fraud watchdog remains toothless

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**T**HE European Commission was under renewed attack last night for failing to tackle EU fraud. It announced a revamping of its inquiry unit instead of the fundamental reforms it had promised.

Jacques Santer, the Commission president, was attacked by MEPs after he told the European Parliament meeting in Brussels that although an independent unit to investigate fraud would be set up, it would be drawn from the Commission's existing investigators and would still have to be called in by officials to start an inquiry. The EU's existing anti-fraud unit has been criticised for lacking the means to pursue investigations vigorously enough. Although there were 2,668 cases of irregularities reported last year alone, the unit, which has only 30 investigators, has so far managed just 49 investigations. Only eight officials have been disciplined.

Herbert Bosch, an Austrian Social Democrat MEP who drew up a recent critical report for the parliament said last night: "The Commission's response is absolutely not satisfactory. The bigger the EU gets the more important it is to lift the curtain on what is going on. Officials in member states' governments do not have immunity and nor should those in EU institutions."

## Jospin's women trouble causes tension in Paris

### Paul Webster on another cabinet clash of genders

**I**N ANOTHER clash with a woman cabinet member, the French prime minister, Lionel Jospin, has told the culture minister, Catherine Trautmann, that her reforms of the broadcasting system are too badly drafted to be put before parliament.

The cancellation of a parliamentary debate due later this month on one of the prime minister's key promises has added to existing tensions between male and female ministers.

Last month Mr Jospin publicly rebuked the environment minister and Green Party leader, Dominique Voynet, for supporting an illegal immigrants' protest.

The prime minister has also faced criticism of his justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou, for a badly prepared gay rights bill that has paralysed the parliamentary agenda.

With the future of the three women in question, the Socialist prime minister risks being compared to his Gaullist predecessor, Alain Juppé. Mr Juppé sacked eight women cabinet and junior ministers in 1995, saying most of them were a nuisance.

Mr Jospin, with five women in cabinet posts, is committed to male-female parity in politics, but faces the most embarrassing situation since 1992 when the

late Socialist president, François Mitterrand, sacked the country's only woman prime minister, Edith Cresson, after she had spent only 11 months in office. Ms Cresson's aggressive attitude irritated her male colleagues, whom she accused of being macho.

The row about the seventh broadcasting reform in 15 years is likely to reawaken suspicions of an endemic gender clash in French politics.

Ms Trautmann, former mayor of Strasbourg, was reported to be "pale and trembling" after meeting Mr Jospin. She told MEPs that her bill had been postponed because of a crowded parliamentary agenda.

It was left to a rightwing, former culture minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, to sum up what was considered to be the real reason for delaying a measure intended to raise the independence and quality of state broadcasting by reducing the need for heavy advertising.

"I have never seen a worse-prepared bill," he said, referring to a lack of precision on how the public network would be financed.

Responsibility for some areas of policy has been handed to a woman mem-



France's Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, is committed to sexual parity in politics, but recent clashes with female cabinet members have left a question mark over the futures of (from left) Elisabeth Guigou, the justice minister, Dominique Voynet, the environment minister, and the culture minister, Catherine Trautmann



## Anglo-French defence move

Richard Norton-Taylor

**B**RITAIN and France are to step up co-operation on defence and security issues as part of an attempt to make the EU a more credible diplomatic and military force, Whitehall officials said yesterday. Tony Blair and President Jacques Chirac are expected to announce a series of measures, including joint military and diplomatic responses to international crises, at the conclusion of the Anglo-French summit in St Malo tomorrow.

Britain and France were the two European countries "with most in common" in the defence field, officials said. They singled out future co-operation in Africa where they have frequently disagreed over policy.

They will also emphasise the need for EU states to go it alone in peace-keeping and military operations when the US was loath to commit its forces. George Robertson, the defence secretary — who met his French counterpart, Alain Richard, in Paris yesterday — said that European countries needed to play a fuller role in

contributing towards their own security.

Kosovo had shown there was more Europe could do in a crisis. If recent planned air strikes had gone ahead, less than a third of the Nato aircraft involved would have been European, he told a meeting of the Western European Union.

In Nato as a whole, added Mr Robertson, the European countries made up 60 per cent of the population but provided only 40 per cent of the defence spending.

However, the Foreign Office stressed that while the

Anglo-French summit would emphasise general principles as well as practical co-operation, it would not discuss the setting up of any new European defence or security institutions.

Mr Blair has made it clear that close European military co-operation must not weaken Nato. France's more independent stance within Nato, its reluctance to let French arms companies merge with British ones, and Britain's close intelligence links with the US, are all potential barriers to close defence links between the two countries.

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Ocalan row raises the stakes in Istanbul stadium

## Troops on alert for grudge match

Chris Morris in Ankara

SOME 22,000 police and paramilitary troops were posted on duty inside and outside Galatasaray's Ali Sami Yen stadium last night for the European Champions' League football match with the mighty Juventus of Italy.

The extraordinary security measures in Istanbul were ordered to prevent any outbreak of violence. The match had been postponed from last week because of continuing anger in Turkey about Italy's reluctance to extradite Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The police feared the presence of provocateurs among Turkish fans known for their fanatical devotion to their team. A helicopter was reported to be on stand-by to whisk the players away if things got out of hand.

Although anti-Italian sentiments are still running high, and demonstrations are taking place daily across the country, politicians have appealed for restraint and promised that trouble-makers will not be tolerated.

"I invite our people to show common sense," the caretaker prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, said. "They should avoid doing anything which will help spread hatred on our enemies' bread."

The gates at the stadium opened at midday and Galatasaray fans were queuing in the drizzle hours before kick-off. The police established two cordons around the stadium and promised to confiscate

banners and placards, lighters and loose change — anything which could be considered remotely threatening. "There's no need to have this many police around," a fan said. "We're just here to support our team."

Another said: "Nothing will happen, it will be a good game and we will win. We are gentlemen supporters."

Manchester United, who were received with banners proclaiming "Welcome to Hell" when they played a European match here five years ago, might beg to differ.

But Turkey realises the eyes of the world are upon it this time, with this game being televised live in 24 countries. Juventus's star-studded team was unhappy about coming to Istanbul in the circumstances, even though the Turkish government said it would guarantee their safety.

"We were kind of forced to go to play. We're very worried," goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi said. "Uefa and the two governments have taken on a big responsibility."

The team flew in to Istanbul yesterday, not the day before the game as required by Uefa regulations. The club could now be fined. Two Italian managers arrived with the team; Rome said the Italian

government did not want Juventus to travel alone. The players certainly looked apprehensive on their arrival. The road from the airport to the team's hotel was closed to traffic, and their bus rushed through Istanbul streets.

Italian supporters have been urged to stay away, and the size of the security operation should make any large-scale violence unlikely. The front pages of yesterday's newspapers urged Galatasaray to win, but also appealed for dignity and calm.

Many Turks saw the postponement of this match as the latest in a long line of insults from Europe — a suggestion that Turkey could not control its emotions. "Now we should embarrass them with our hospitality," a newspaper said, "and then send Juventus home defeated."

The stakes are high on the field. Juventus need a victory to stay in the competition. A victory for Galatasaray would leave them on the verge of qualification for the next stage.

Match report, page 14



Some of the 22,000 police and paramilitary troops on guard at Galatasaray's stadium in Istanbul before the European Champions' League match against Juventus of Turin. Feelings against Italy are running high over its reluctance to extradite a Kurdish rebel leader. PHOTOGRAPH BY HANAN OZBUCI

## Jerusalem killing linked to 'serial stabber'

David Sharrock reports on the knifeman stalking Palestinians

A JEWISH knifeman who dresses in ultra-Orthodox garb and stalks Palestinians is believed to have claimed another victim.

Police fear that the murder yesterday of Usama Mousa Natshe, aged 41, a father of six who worked for the Jerusalem city authorities as a cleaner, is linked to a previous fatal stabbing and five other knife attacks on Arabs in the city's ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim district earlier this year.

Natshe was attacked before dawn as he left home to go to work. Family members said he was able to stammer out a few details of his killer before he died.

"He was on his way to work. A masked man suddenly jumped out from behind a bus and started stabbing him with a knife," said Abdel Raouf Natshe, the man's cousin.

"He turned back towards home and shouted for his brothers. They came up, saw him soaked in blood and called an ambulance."

Jerusalem police commander Yair Yitzhaki said he was investigating links between this killing and six previous attacks on Palestinians. "He was stabbed by a man about whom I do not wish to speak at present," Mr Yitzhaki added.

The Israeli public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said: "Signs in the field indicate this is a murder with a nationalist background," police terminology for violence between Jews and Arabs.

Israel Radio said a knife found at the scene was inscribed with the word "revenge" in Hebrew, indicating that the killer was probably a Jew.

A court ruling has banned reporting details of the investigation, but newspapers have been able to say that in each

of the previous stabbings a nine-inch commando knife was used. In at least one case the knife was inscribed with the name of a Jew who was murdered in Jerusalem's Old City in February, suggesting a sectarian revenge motive.

The first victim of the Mea Shearim "serial stabber", as he has been dubbed, was a 14-year-old Arab errand-boy who worked for a grocery in the walled neighbourhood, a dense labyrinth where life rigidly follows the Torah. He was stabbed in the back.

The following five attacks took place within a 100-yard radius. Each was more vicious than the previous attack, culminating in the

'A masked man jumped out from behind a bus and stabbed him'

murder of Eshyri Alkam, a labourer aged 51, in May.

Mea Shearim rabbis, alarmed by the intrusion of violence into their sealed way of life, issued an unprecedented *din rodef*, a religious court ruling stigmatising the knifeman as a traitor.

Palestinians have complained that the police have not done enough to catch the killer who preys on them, but the police counter that gathering information from the 20,000-strong Mea Shearim population has not been easy. Its ultra-Orthodox residents do not recognise the state of Israel, believing it a heresy.

The latest killing took place in Abu Tor, a mixed Jewish-Arab neighbourhood in south Jerusalem, on the other side of the Old City to Mea Shearim.

The change in location suggests that the threats issued by the Mea Shearim rabbis



A Palestinian is comforted after being overcome with grief at the death of Usama Mousa Natshe. PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HENDLER

have forced the knifeman to move further afield.

Minor rioting in east Jerusalem marked Natshe's funeral. Hundreds joined the procession along the main thoroughfare of traditionally Arab east Jerusalem. Dozens

of marchers broke away and hurled stones at riot police, who fired rubber bullets. In a side street, Palestinians stoned an Israeli motorist, pulled him out of the car and then set it on fire, a Jerusalem police spokesman said.

Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian Authority minister for Jerusalem affairs, accused the Israeli government of inciting attacks against Arabs. Israel's mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, ordered the city to offer any help Natshe's

family required.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in 1967 and annexed it, declaring the entire city its united capital in a move not recognised internationally. Palestinians regard east Jerusalem as their future capital.

## Veteran Ecevit to be new PM

Chris Morris in Ankara

ONE of Turkey's veteran political leaders, Bulent Ecevit, who served as prime minister three times in the 1970s, was asked yesterday to form the country's next government. He pledged to lead the country to early elections next April.

His appointment was immediately attacked, however, by the leader of the largest party in parliament, the pro-Islamist Virtue Party, as a violation of democratic principles. Mr Ecevit's party, the Democratic Left, holds just over 10 per cent of the seats in parliament.

Mr Ecevit is expected to try to form a coalition with the two main centre-right parties, or possibly with the social democratic Republican People's Party.

Aged 73, Mr Ecevit was the deputy prime minister in the outgoing government, which fell last week under the weight of corruption allegations. He has not been accused personally, though, and he is still

regarded as one of the most honest men in Turkish politics.

After meeting the president yesterday, Mr Ecevit emphasised that his proposed government should not be seen as a lame duck, even though it would not hold office for long. "We have urgent problems which cannot wait for the elections," he said.

He promised to try to maintain economic stability, and to prevent any foreign countries taking advantage of Turkey's position. He referred in particular to the continuing dispute with Italy about the fate of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The choice of the staunchly secular Mr Ecevit will please Turkey's military leaders, because it rules out the possibility of the Virtue party playing a role in the next government. His policies will also be watched with interest from abroad. His leaving politics include a strong strain of nationalism; he is a hardliner on the long-running Cyprus dispute.

### News in brief

## Anwar 'victim' gives evidence in sex case

THE prosecution in the case against Malaysia's former deputy prime minister yesterday produced its first witness to support charges of sexual misconduct against Anwar Ibrahim. Anwar's lawyer told a Kuala Lumpur court that he had been a "continuous homosexual victim" of Mr Anwar, against his will. He read out a statement written last year claiming that "this heinous act" had been committed regularly during 1992, when he worked as a driver for Mr Anwar's wife.

Mr Anwar retracted this statement soon after making it in August 1997. But the prosecution alleges this was done after special branch officers had used psychological pressure, on Mr Anwar's instructions. This is the basis for the charge of "corruption" against Mr Anwar now being heard by the court.

Yesterday Mr Anwar backed his original statement. Mr Anwar's defence says the retraction was genuine and that the charges were inspired by his political enemies. — John Gittings, Hong Kong

## Nixon estate seeks damages

A FEDERAL court in Washington yesterday began hearing a claim by the estate of former president Richard Nixon which seeks damages of \$200 million (£125 million) for the seizure of tapes and other papers taken by the government following the 1974 Watergate scandal.

The claim is the final lawsuit filed by Nixon before his death in 1994 and covers 8,700 hours of secretly recorded tapes, 42 million pages of documents and thousands of photographs.

Most 20th century US presidents have donated their papers and memorabilia to government-run presidential libraries. The Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California, is unusual in being privately operated. The government is contesting the case, which is expected to last six weeks. — Martin Kettle, Washington

## North Korea warns of war

NORTH KOREA warned that a tough stance by the United States was bringing north-east Asia to the brink of war "yesterday", after reports in Japan that Pyongyang is preparing to test another ballistic missile. The war of words raised fears that regional tensions are intensifying in the wake of an earlier rocket launch over Japanese territory.

Japan confirmed that it possessed information that the North may be preparing for a test-firing. The Yonhap Shinbun newspaper said US spy satellites had spotted the North Korean military moving components of a Taepodong multi-stage missile from a storage site to a launch area. — Jonathan Males, Tokyo

## Gates donates £60m for child immunisations in third world

Michael Ellison in New York

BILL GATES, until recently renowned more for his bank balance than his generosity, yesterday donated \$100 million (£60 million) to a programme to deliver vaccines to the world's poorest children.

Mr Gates, chairman of the Microsoft Corporation and the world's richest man with assets of at least \$60 billion, said: "The beauty of children's vaccines is that when

they're rolled out they'll save millions of lives."

The money will be used to introduce new vaccines against hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza type B (HIB), pneumococcus and rotavirus in countries that cannot afford to pay for them.

Each year hepatitis B kills about 1 million people, rotavirus claims the lives of about 800,000 children, and pneumococcus is responsible for up to 20 per cent of deaths of children under five.

"This is the largest infusion

of private funds into vaccines ever," Gordon Perkin of the Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), which will run the Gates vaccine initiative, declared.

Mr Gates, aged 43, said the timing of the donation, which comes as Microsoft fights a court battle over its alleged monopoly, was coincidental and explained why he had waited to open his wallet.

"You can always look back and say 'Hey, I could have sold all my Microsoft stock when I was 30 years

old', but that would have been worth a small fraction of what it is now and that would have been all my philanthropy."

The Microsoft chairman, who says he will eventually give away 95 per cent of his fortune, has been trying to transform his image, which has not been enhanced by his evasive and sullen performance in a video shown during the court case.

Six months ago he and wife Melinda gave \$1.5 million to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

## US researchers uncover clue to mysterious fate of aviator Earhart

A CLUE to one of the enduring mysteries of the century was unearthed yesterday when researchers produced new evidence about the fate of Amelia Earhart, who vanished while flying around the world in 1937, writes Michael Ellison.

It suggests that the American died on Nikumaroro Island in the Polynesian republic of Kiribati, rather than at the hands of the Japanese navy or because she crashed into the Pacific.

Researchers believe that bones found on Nikumaroro are those of Earhart. They were found in 1940 by

British soldiers who thought they might be part of the aviation pioneer's skeleton, but a doctor ruled this out. America was not told of the discovery.

The matter rested there until the intervention of the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, which has spent a decade investigating the case.

Richard Gillespie, the aircraft recovery group's director, tracked down the original archive material in England. Re-evaluation by forensic anthropologists indicates the bones are those of a woman of northern European extraction, who was about 5ft 7in tall.



# Comment

## Diary

Simon Bowers

A LETTER arrives from Diary fan Tim Allan's publicity department at Sky TV. "It has come to our notice that the Guardian will be indulging in Christmas festivities," it begins. "While you are gearing up for this licence to drink excessively, debauch and degrade your company name, we wish to highlight a more sinister element to this corporate revelry." This, we discover, is a reference to a Sky One documentary, Christmas Uncovered, to be filmed imminently. "Your party," warns the letter, "could provide them with the perfect material." Thanks for the tip-off, Tim. Timmy, you may recall, last featured in the Diary trousers down, peeling on the Highcliff Hotel flowerbeds during a Tory conference party in Bourneville. "If you don't put that away," suggested a policeman at the time, "you'll be arrested." Perhaps the Sky One camera crew will be interested to learn that Mr Murdoch is holding a party at the Reform Club for all News International staff. For which Rupert, in his unfaltering benevolence, has agreed to charge guests just £15 each. Maybe Timmy will be there.

WE return to Andrew Morton's new book *Moi* (Michael O'Drill, £20), a biography of Daniel arap Moi, president of Kenya. Last week we highlighted Andrew's concern that if his book were to give a detailed rebuttal of every charge levelled against Moi, it "would cross the boundary from biography into public relations". Indeed, on closer examination, we are most impressed by the rigour with which this danger is avoided. Take the persecution of the outlawed opposition group, Mwakenya. They were a problem because allegations of torture were raising "concerns among western diplomats". He explains that the Kenyan police often prefer "a Route One method of extracting information, rather than the more painstaking approach of interviewing suspects and witnesses and collecting evidence". What exactly "Route One" is, we may never learn.

WE are appalled to learn of the ignominious treatment "Nicholas" Fatty Soames, received in Toronto on Monday. Having fed him well, the 15th annual dinner of the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy was treated to a rousing speech from Fatty on the subject of grandfather. He marked himself back in his seat, Canadian journalist Andrew Coyne rose with a few words of thanks. What dear old Fatty thought when Coyne mistakenly referred to his grandfather as Hitler, we can only guess.

N OBODY, it is said, has a grasp of international affairs like Henry Kissinger. So, respectfully, a table of Mr Ford's finest dinners, assembled by Harry Evans, fell hush when Kissie turned to the topic of the day. "Of course Pinochet should go home," he said. "What's 6,000 people dead in two years? It's 10 a day. I don't call that genocide." Wiser words you will not hear.



REMEMBER this face? It's Michael Howard, looking pensive after an overnight stay in Brixton prison. Now Macmillan Cancer Relief has collected all the sponsorship money, the total has reached an incredible £80,000. "We were surprised and delighted," said a spokeswoman for the charity, "by how much people were willing to give". If the very thought of it still brings a smile to your face, why not write out a cheque to Macmillan Cancer Relief and send it to the Diary?



## Unless he is reined in, Lafontaine could do a lot of reckless damage

Hugo Young



THIS is the Government's worst week since it came to power. For the first time it lost control of a big issue. There have been a few embarrassments — Formula One, Geoffrey Robinson, Sierra Leone — but never the sense that it could be dictated to, or succumb to alien forces in defiance of its mandate. Over Europe now its performance shows signs of combining the edgy arrogance of the Thatcher years with the helplessness of the Major period. Claiming in the Commons yesterday to be precisely otherwise, Mr Blair only emphasised how unnervingly close the comparison appears to be. It is an extraordinary and unnecessary spectacle.

Here, after all, is a government afflicted by neither of the salient disabilities of its two predecessors. It does not seek, like the late Thatcher, to strut the anti-European Union stage. On the contrary it is extraordinarily proud and self-consciously pro-European. This was one of its messages at the election. It promised to change the climate of Anglo-European relations, and in important respects has done so. Yet confronted with an initiative it does not like from the Continent, it can think of nothing more imaginative than to reach for the brute Thatcherite silence which fits so snugly into headline space.

But its nervous system should also surely be a long way from recreating Major's depleted facade of a government. Mr Blair has a huge majority and a party that shelters no significant dissenters from his desired approach to Europe.

As between him and Major, the freedom of political manoeuvre is incomparable. Yet the echoes of Major's sense of pique, hurt and incomprehension at the scheming continentalers were unmistakable this week. Although the Tory party cannot lay a glove on Blair, the Tory press seems to be finding him almost as sensitive a target as it did Major — as ripe for their bullying, as vulnerable to their distortions, as alert to their agenda, as alarmed by their presumed political impact. And it is still three years until the next election. To be sure, there are ersatz Thatchers large on the Continent. The lady's insatiable aggression is repeated in the performance of Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister. His threats against national sovereignty over tax show as little respect for the opinions of several other countries as her coarse rejection of the ERM in the middle 1990s. And now, apparently abet-

ted by Mr Strauss-Kahn for France, he puts the newborn centre-left hegemony over Europe in a pretty blurred perspective. Empty of concrete relevance though his words are, he does not behave like a politician who places a high priority on smoothing Britain's path into the single currency.

So he is a trial for Mr Blair. All the same, the Government lacked coolness in response, showing a measure of fright that was out of line with its objectives and out of proportion to its strength. Reaching for the veto sounds like the termination of debate, although there are some tax harmonies — about evasion, however — which Britain has every interest in discussing.

To have talked instead about the need for unanimity would not have made a tabloid headline, but it would have recognised this was a process rather than the occasion for a staccato rap. To have talked more about the allies Britain could certainly recruit and less about the solitary veto she was prepared to impose might have sounded like a retreat from macho-Thatcherism. But it would register that all these problems are Europe-wide, and not merely figments of a very British frenzy.

The danger of the disharmony we have seen this week is that it will begin to pollute other areas where things have really changed. In both the mechanics and some of the policies the British stance is trying to be much more positive. Europe between the parties and in the media may still be inadmissible for discussion here, other than as a war zone where there must always be a winner, but in the unregarded netherland where daily business is done, a new atmosphere prevails. Every Whitehall department operates under a personal Blair directive to consider the Euro-dimension of all it does, and large bilateral gatherings, such as today's with the French at St Malo, drive agreement forwards. In the defence field initiative towards a more integrated European military capability has excited France. It was being discussed at top ministerial level in Paris yesterday, and we may be sure will not be reported in the German press as a sinister move by the nuclear powers to conspire against Germany's sacred sovereignty — on the model of the British press's doom-laden and wholly nationalistic account of the similar bilateral event between Germany and France in Potsdam.

An unhelpful curiosity of the present scene in Europe, exemplified by Oskar Lafontaine, is the ascendancy of finance ministries over foreign ministries in the internal dynamics of the three main governments. In each case, the foreign ministry is weakly led in comparison with the finance ministry, and has relatively clear ideas about its role and range. Strauss-Kahn, Brown and Lafontaine, each in their different ways, are more potent figures than Fischer, Cook and Vedrine. Although Lafontaine, warmly embracing Cook, may stand for the same kind of socialism as the British Foreign Secretary, it seems to be the fate of both Fischer and Cook to be allowed freer rein over Bosnia, Iraq and human rights than they enjoy on the central issue of the future of Europe.

The real challenge this lays down however is to the respective heads of government, and in particular in the present conjuncture, Gerhard Schröder and Tony Blair. Schröder is being out-faced by his finance minister and party boss, and thus finds his nascent desire to lead Germany from a roughly Blairite position being throttled at birth. Unless the Chancellor asserts control of the new German Euro-rhetoric, Lafontaine can do a lot of reckless damage, with no advantage to anyone.

Mr Blair's position is slightly different. He has no problem with either his party, or his finance minister. They think alike. The trouble is that they also fear alike. They both seem to be half in thrall to the very forces which the electorate so resoundingly rejected in May 1997 — the Euro-scoops and Euro-phobes who by then dominated the identity of the Tory Party and its backers.

The people voted not to revive the Thatcher-Major experience but to cast it — they hoped — into perpetual oblivion. Britain needs a system that enfranchises the liberal majority. Straight AV does that, without the bells and whistles of the Jenkins report. From what is known about voters' preferences, it is likely that the first effect of AV would be to double the number of Liberal Democrats in the Commons, with little or no impact on Labour. The second is that the Conservative party would be forced back on to the centre ground in order to attract second and third preference votes. By far the worst threat to liberal values in Britain is a resurgence of free-market dogma harnessed to moral fundamentalism. Electoral reform would drive that deadly combination back where it belongs, on the outer fringes of the Right. Will the statist pull of party loyalties allow this once in a century chance to slip away?

Labour must not panic — voting reform will keep the spectre of far-right fundamentalism at bay

At present, to talk of the Conservative party as a serious threat to the Government is to invite ridicule. The Tories are hopelessly out of tune with the values of the age. Should we not, then, rest content with the astonishing fact that the silent, apolitical majority now leans to the liberal Left? To give up on the project of the Left's realignment would be the worst imaginable response to the emergence of a liberal majority. Yet such an outcome is more likely now than a few months ago. The Jenkins report on electoral reform has set the agenda in a way that reinforces the status quo. Its recommendations have been made on the basis of an astute assessment of what is politically acceptable to the two centre-left parties.

The trouble with devising acceptable reform is that you can end up with one lacking electoral credibility. This is pretty much what the Jenkins commission came up with. It recommended AV-plus, a complicated hybrid of the alternative vote, in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, with a top-up modelled on the additional member system. AV-plus seems designed to look opaque and contrived: the risk incurred by the Government in recommending this system in a referendum hardly bears thinking about. The risk we face already in the aftermath of the Jenkins report is that electoral reform will be stalled indefinitely. The Tories are bound to recover in time. Even a party that is thoroughly reaction-

Our deep instincts condemn mass murder. But not sex

## It's human nature

Salman Rushdie



MAN is by nature a political animal, said Aristotle, who argued further that the public life of a "good" society must reflect the nature of its members. Many of the great Macedonian's assertions — that the slave is "naturally" inferior to his master, the female to the male, the "barbarian" to the Greek — now seem absurd. Yet Aristotle's basic proposition still rings true. The present travails of three leading political figures — Bill Clinton, Saddam Hussein and Augusto Pinochet — reveal how deeply we believe in natural justice.

President Clinton's probable escape from his domestic pursuers can be ascribed in part to his foes' astonishing folly. He has been lucky in his enemies: the sex-crazed, mealy-mouthed Kenneth Starr and his backers on the Christian Right, who remind us that "fundamentalism" is a term born in the United States; Newt Gingrich, who overplayed a winning hand and lost his shirt; and Linda Tripp, the wicked witch of the wire who, like Nixon, did not understand that by bugging herself she would only prove her own villainy, even with the expletives deleted.

When an ancient force — puritanical fanaticism — combines with the contemporary tabloid dogma that public figures have no right to privacy, and when the Washington political and media elites work themselves up into a mighty pompous froth, even the President rocks on his throne. But Clinton survives, because he has human nature on his side. Human nature distinguishes between sexual dalliance and political misconduct. It can be brutal: asked to take a view about Monica and Paula, the American people replied that they just did not care. They have come to know Clinton far more intimately than they normally know their leaders and he, of course, has always known them better than any other politician. Clinton is winning his fight because he is like his people — because, you could say, he is a natural.

In the matter of Iraq, however, the US administration's understanding of human nature has been deficient, to say the least. The notion that bombing raids might provoke a coup against Saddam was always an improbable hypothesis. On the whole, people do not see as allies those who are dropping large quantities of high explosives on them from the sky. Like Yossarian, the hero of *Catch 22*, they take the bombs personally. Threatening to bomb and

then not bombing has the advantage of killing fewer people but the disadvantage of making one look silly. Apparently, some Iraqis seriously believe Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky were pawns in an international Zionist conspiracy designed to make Clinton bomb Baghdad. The recent aborted American-British attack may demonstrate the declining international influence of these two ladies but otherwise plays right into Saddam's hands.

Those voices advocating a rapid end to sanctions and a subsequent opening up of the Iraqi market to western goods and ideas may not find much favour with America's military analysts, but an Iraq freed from the privations of the embargo and threat of aerial attack is more likely to think of the West as a friend. The best way to topple Saddam may be to help bring into being an Iraq in which his tyrannies are not only hateful but also anachronistic.

The case of the month's other "unnatural" figure ought to be getting easier. Pinochet, after all, has earned the right to be called the most evil man now alive on Earth (sorry, Saddam). The British law lords have decreed he is not immune from extradition. The crucial principle of universal accountability has thus been upheld. Atrocities is not to be excused by the occupancy of high office. All this has become clear in recent days. Why, then, has the Home Secretary asked for extra time to decide Pinochet's future? The ex-tyrant was well enough to hang out with Lady Thatcher the other day, but now claims that the pressure he is under has provoked a stress-related ailment. The families of the dead must be disgusted by this ruse. Pinochet must not escape on such flimsy "compassionate" grounds. Jack Straw should confirm at once that for the mass murderers of the world,

Pinochet is now the most evil man alive on Earth (sorry, Saddam)

there can be no compassion. "Human nature exists, and it is both deep and highly structured," wrote Edward O. Wilson, the biologist and writer whom Tom Wolfe calls "a new Darwin". If it did not exist, let us be clear, then the idea of universals — human rights, moral principles, international law — would have no legitimacy. It is the fact of our common humanity that allows most of us to forgive Bill Clinton his faults, that will not allow us to agree that bombing innocent Iraqis is the right way to punish Saddam, and that makes us want to see Pinochet brought to justice. A world that hounded Clinton but turned a blind eye to Pinochet would indeed be a world turned upside-down.

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Labour must not panic — voting reform will keep the spectre of far-right fundamentalism at bay

## Afraid of the dark

John Gray

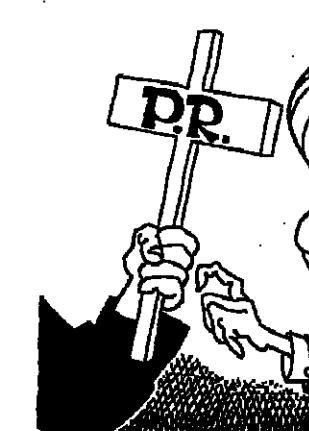
THE Government faces an ironic turn of events. Britain now has a liberal majority. It does not always exhibit identikit left-liberal attitudes, but across a wide range of issues a majority favours personal freedom and feels at home in a pluralistic democracy. Public opinion is unfazed by tabloid revelations about the sexuality of Cabinet ministers and indifferent or contemptuous to Conservative attempts to rally supporters of "traditional values". This is a phenomenon Labour strategists did not anticipate. The Government does not yet know quite how to deal with it. Labour came to power with the profound conviction that

18 years of right-wing government had imprinted conservative values on the national soul. Its wobbles on single-parent families and extreme caution on soft drugs are testimony to the belief that Britain's political culture is not liberal or social-democratic but deeply conservative. The Government's most distinctive and ambitious political project — Tony Blair's attempt to realign the Left beyond the tribal allegiances dividing it in the past — rests on a belief that the Conservative party can still muster a broad national coalition. It is Blair's respect for the Tories' legendary powers of recovery that has led him to press on with his discussions with Paddy Ashdown, despite increasingly loud rumblings in both parties.

At present, to talk of the Conservative party as a serious threat to the Government is to invite ridicule. The Tories are hopelessly out of tune with the values of the age. Should we not, then, rest content with the astonishing fact that the silent, apolitical majority now leans to the liberal Left? To give up on the project of the Left's realignment would be the worst imaginable response to the emergence of a liberal majority. Yet such an outcome is more likely now than a few months ago. The Jenkins report on electoral reform has set the agenda in a way that reinforces the status quo. Its recommendations have been made on the basis of an astute assessment of what is politically acceptable to the two centre-left parties.

The trouble with devising acceptable reform is that you can end up with one lacking electoral credibility. This is pretty much what the Jenkins commission came up with. It recommended AV-plus, a complicated hybrid of the alternative vote, in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, with a top-up modelled on the additional member system. AV-plus seems designed to look opaque and contrived: the risk incurred by the Government in recommending this system in a referendum hardly bears thinking about. The risk we face already in the aftermath of the Jenkins report is that electoral reform will be stalled indefinitely. The Tories are bound to recover in time. Even a party that is thoroughly reaction-

ary and out of kilter with prevailing values will, in the ups and downs of life under first-past-the-post, eventually regain support. What then will become of the centre-left?



Britain needs a system that enfranchises the liberal majority. Straight AV does that, without the bells and whistles of the Jenkins report. From what is known about voters' preferences, it is likely that the first effect of AV would be to double the number of Liberal Democrats in the Commons, with little or no impact on Labour. The second is that the Conservative party would be forced back on to the centre ground in order to attract second and third preference votes. By far the worst threat to liberal values in Britain is a resurgence of free-market dogma harnessed to moral fundamentalism. Electoral reform would drive that deadly combination back where it belongs, on the outer fringes of the Right. Will the statist pull of party loyalties allow this once in a century chance to slip away?

John Gray is Professor of European Thought at the LSE

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**'As you can imagine, Lara Croft has been a role model for our female scientists'**  
Bob Mannix, Letters

## Cranborne sacked

Blair upstages Hague

THE LUCKLESSNESS of William Hague continues to be one of British politics' most enduring themes. Yesterday's twist in the saga should have brought a rare flash of good fortune, as he sprung a surprise on the House of Commons, revealing a backroom deal Labour had apparently sought with the Conservative leadership in the Lords. Mr Hague hoped to ambush the Prime Minister, seeking to expose him before his own party as a backslider and compromiser on a cherished Labour principle: the removal of the hereditary members from the upper house. For a second the plan appeared to work. Labour backbenchers were instantly hushed as Mr Hague revealed that their leader had covertly plotted to compromise on the principle by allowing a vestigial group of 91 hereditaries to retain their place in Britain's most exclusive club. That should have placed Tony Blair squarely on the receiving end of backbench fury and accusations of sellout.

But that's not how it worked out. Instead it was William Hague who wound up as the victim of the Hague manoeuvre. All his bombshell did was leave a gaping crater inside the Conservative party. From being forced on to the defensive, Mr Blair was able to attack Mr Hague as utterly at odds with his own leader in the Lords. Viscount Cranborne, who had already sanctioned the compromise with Labour, was peremptorily sacked last night. Earlier the Prime Minister skewered the Tory leader

both for humiliating his man in the Lords — by overruling him in public — and for exposing himself as less than fully in charge of his own party in Parliament.

More deeply, Mr Hague has once again driven a wholly avoidable wedge through the Conservative Party, splitting Tory MPs from Tory peers on the one issue which is likely to dominate the next political year. Just as he did on the eve of his party conference, when he called a referendum on the single currency — thereby ensuring that the entire week was dominated by the Tories' most toxic question — so Mr Hague has once again created trouble where none needed to exist. As Mr Blair put it cruelly, his Tory counterpart appears to be on a "kamikaze mission" in which almost every strategic judgment he makes is wrong.

The politics, then, Mr Blair got right. But what of the policy? Our own view on the hereditary peers has not wavered: we would like them gone from our legislature as soon as possible. Aristocratic blood should not carry with it an automatic place in the nation's law-making body. But more important is the realisation of it. If Labour, Liberal Democrats and cross-benchers in the Lords are all convinced that the new plan represents the only way this vital reform can happen, without falling victim to ermine guerrilla warfare, then it is an irritating, but acceptable compromise. Progressives must remain vigilant, however: watching to ensure those 91 escapees do not quietly become part of the Lords furniture, staying on even in a supposedly reformed second chamber — unless, of course, they are democratically chosen. Radicals who were already determined to hold Mr Blair's feet to the fire to ensure this Stage One is followed by a final, democratic Stage Two will now have to keep their eye on this

development, too: Britain's blue-bloods have a Dracula-like knack for staying alive even when one imagines them finally vanquished. But — irrespective of what happens to it now, the Lords compromise appears to have been a good day's work by the Government. The Conservative presence in Westminster is in disarray, its leader badly damaged, while an essential piece of constitutional reform may have a better life expectancy than before.

## Euroland's agenda

Lower interest rates for a start

THERE ARE 29 shopping days to the euro. Next month the 11 "Euroland" countries will consummate monetary union by merging their currencies and ceding power to the European Central Bank (ECB) to fix interest rates. Britain as a non-member won't be directly affected, but might be indirectly because most of our trade is with Europe. And there is plenty to worry about. The ECB is even less accountable than the Bank of England, its operations more secret than other central banks and its inflation target could prove lethal.

The B of E's inflation target has been criticised because, unlike the US Federal Reserve, it doesn't take unemployment into account when it sets rates. But at least it has a fixed target — 2.5 per cent. If it is likely to undershoot, the Bank can reduce rates. But the ECB's target is a range — 0 to 3 per cent — which means it has no statutory duty to reduce interest rates until inflation has disappeared. By that time deflation or falling prices may have set in, creating the spectre of a downward spiral of falling prices. Japan is sliding dangerously near that precipice and Europe may not be far

off. In France inflation is only 0.4 per cent and in Germany 0.6 per cent. Since the official figures probably overstate actual inflation, deflation may already be happening. Which is why Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's effervescent finance minister, is right to call for a change in the ECB's remit to take account of unemployment (to reflect the leftward drift in Europe's governance since the Maastricht treaty was signed). It is unacceptable that while the IMF is calling for more transparency in international banking, the ECB keeps its minutes secret. Wim Duisenberg, president of the ECB, even refuses to visit Euroland's 11 member parliaments to account for his actions — though he will appear before the (politically weak) European Parliament. Mr Duisenberg claims that the ECB is the most open bank in the world because it will explain its decisions rather than publish minutes.

That's piffle — but all the more reason why the ECB must be decisive about lowering interest rates as soon as possible. With economic growth in Europe fading and inflation non-existent, there is an urgent need to reduce rates (now 3.3 per cent) to below 3 per cent to avoid deflation and reignite growth. Mr Duisenberg seemed to accept this earlier this week. He should now translate thoughts into action so rates can be reduced. There could be no better birthday present for Europe's new central bank.

## Future disastrous

But forewarned is forearmed

THIS week a small earthquake in southwest China destroyed 8,000 homes and left 20,000 people homeless. Two earthquakes shook Yunnan in China last month, killing three but leaving 26,000 homeless in a

freezing landscape. You can't see an earthquake coming, but you could prepare for it all the same. This — not that anybody has paid much attention to the first eight years of it — is the UN International Decade For Natural Disaster Reduction. A group of British engineers and scientists who have hammered out a report called *Forecasts And Warnings* to mark the decade have just been trying to ram home the big point: forewarned really is forearmed. Meteorologists saw Hurricane George coming and the warning got through: only three people died when it hit Louisiana in September. The weathermen also saw Hurricane Mitch seven days before it hit Honduras in October. But the Hondurans were not prepared: more than 24,000 were left dead, or missing. The Mexican government last week began warning people who live in the shadow of Popocatepetl, just before it began to rain fire from heaven. There are roughly 30,000 earthquakes a year. There are 600 volcanoes, 50 of which erupt every year, often harmlessly. These are ever-present dangers. But every year, there are another 90 million or so more people on Earth, so the number of potential victims is increasing exponentially. By 2000, one tenth of the world's population will live within destructive range of an active volcano. By 2000 around half of the planet's population will live in crowded, jerry-built cities vulnerable to earthquake, landslide, windstorm, flood and fiery cinders. More than 1.5 million have died in earthquakes just in this century. Consider the pot of risk already, then start piling more potential victims into it. Throw in global warming, with its inbuilt threat of increased hurricanes and more frequent flooding. Paradoxically, disasters could be something to learn to look forward to: that way, their potential victims would stand a better chance of surviving them.

## Letters to the Editor

Lara Croft and virtual software

**SYMPATHISE** with your correspondent (December 2) on the death of his wife from AIDS in Botswana. I have recently lived in that country and have seen the hundreds of funerals that take place every week. The underlying problem is the lifestyle of the Batswana and elders' behaviour in impregnating young girls. Counsellors need to go round to each village and put over this message. Children in schools have an AIDS prevention programme but it is the adults who need the education. Maureen Sewell, Stourbridge, W Midlands.

**AS** a staff member at a world's leading pulsed neutron spallation source (ISIS, here in the UK), I cannot tell you how distraught we are to hear that Lara Croft (Pass Notes, December 1) is unlikely to come and drool over us. As you can imagine, she has been a real role model for our female scientists and engineers. In spite of our undoubted success in the real world, the endorsement of such a prominent virtual figure might have led to virtual funding and scientific discoveries on an unbelievable scale. Bob Mannix, Isis Facility, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxon.

## Oskar and the big picture

**BEFORE** Gordon Brown muddles the waters any further, let's get one thing straight: common fiscal and monetary policies are an inevitable consequence of a common currency and will be imposed by the market, if not by government regulation.

The difference between Gordon Brown and Oskar Lafontaine is that whilst the former (supported, as he boasted on Radio 4, by the employers' associations) is implicitly arguing for competition between member states for jobs and investment to force low wages, "labour flexibility" and tight money throughout the EU, Lafontaine is explicitly arguing for a battle between suppliers and retailers (Shoppers caught in prices crossfire, November 28) when claiming that I accused UK retailers of maintaining high prices.

There are a number of reasons why UK retail prices are higher than those in the US. The US retail market is characterised by one distribution system, whereas here in the EU, a number of distribution systems operate side by side. More handling costs inevitably add to the price. Secondly, any manufacturer selling in the US only has to advertise in one language — English — in order to reach a consumer retail mar-

ket of around 300 million people. To advertise to the 280 million consumers in the EU, requires advertising, packaging etc to be translated into something like a dozen languages. Manufacturers relying heavily upon consumer advertising — particularly broadcast — also find it more expensive to advertise in Europe than in the US. Four big TV networks dominate the US media system, whereas the broadcasting system in Europe is considerably more fractured and therefore more expensive.

Also, your comparison is between the price label in the US and that in the UK. US prices are quoted before the imposi-

tion of sales tax, whereas in the EU they are quoted after tax. Maybe EU prices could fall to US levels if we were one federal state, with one language and one media system. 1994 anyone? Stephen Lock, Ludgate Communications, London.

**THANK** you for your leader (a nation of profiteers, November 28). But why stop at shopkeepers? What hits the hardest those coming from abroad (and must do so to avoid harm to the tourist trade) is the level of charges on the railways and in hotels, both of which demand approximately double what one pays on the other side of the Channel. M W Lee, Orleans, France.



## Mobile phone terrorist cut off

**LAST** Thursday the Virgin Journey from York to Taunton was as crowded and uncomfortable as we have come to expect. In our compartment, an obnoxious young man was engaged in almost non-stop phone conversations which he conducted in loud and self-important tones.

There were angry mutterings, polite requests for him to switch the mobile off, all to no effect. Shortly before Derby, an elderly man stood up and, shouting to attract attention, told him the device switch the mobile off. It would be thrown out of the window. "I didn't pay to suffer your insane waffle from Newcastle to Plymouth." At this everyone broke into spontaneous applause, though

the mobile terrorist appeared to take no notice until another grey haired man stepped forward and, courageously wrestling with him and forcing him to put the phone away.

A wave of jubilation now swept through the crowded carriage as if a victory had been won against a minor Pinocchet. The rest of the journey was a good deal more chatty than usual with a feeling of wartime camaraderie in the face of a common foe.

As we approached Gloucester the phone rang again but, such was the hostility, he pushed his way into the corridor and we could see him answering it outside the loo. Joy Peach, Whitby.

## Silcott solicitor quashes opinion on legal commission

**SIR** Louis Blom-Cooper (Letters, December 1) is wrong to criticise Jeremy Hardy for not getting the law right. In fact, Mr Hardy draws attention to two important concerns about the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Mr Hardy is right that the commission, when deciding whether to refer a case to the Court of Appeal, should not try to second-guess the Court of Appeal's decision. The commission must refer a case if there is a real possibility that the Court of Appeal would consider that the conviction is unsafe. The "real possibility" test requires the commission to adopt a more flexible approach than that applied by the court. Otherwise the court's function is usurped.

Secondly, Sir Louis criticises Mr Hardy for suggesting that the commission is answerable to no one. But Mr Hardy is making an important point. One of the advantages of the commission is

that it is independent of the Home Office. However, one unwelcome consequence is that the exertion of parliamentary pressure on the Home Secretary on behalf of those who have been wrongfully convicted is no longer an option. Sir Louis points out that the commission is answerable to the High Court in judicial review proceedings. The High Court does have the power to quash decisions made by the commission on certain very limited grounds and we are examining whether those grounds may apply here. However, that is quite different from the Home Secretary being answerable to Parliament.

Lawyers should be cautious about criticising journalists who take the trouble to elucidate serious concerns about the way the law is framed and applied. Adrian Clarke, (Solicitor for Winston Silcott), Bindman & Partners.

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**SEE** that the latest survey (Teachers get more class in social shake-up, December 1) lists computer operators (fine people) but seems not to mention systems analysts and programmers. Are we to assume that those doing the survey think that the software they used wrote itself? S Higgins, Staines, Middx.

**FIVE** thousand bankers lose their jobs (City crisis, December 1) — a price worth paying to protect manufacturing in the North-East. Peter Shortt, Oldham.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

## The costs of Britain's high prices

**YOUR** reporter was over-enthusiastic in looking for a battle between suppliers and retailers (Shoppers caught in prices crossfire, November 28) when claiming that I accused UK retailers of maintaining high prices.

There are a number of reasons why UK retail prices are higher than those in the US. The US retail market is characterised by one distribution system, whereas here in the EU, a number of distribution systems operate side by side. More handling costs inevitably add to the price. Secondly, any manufacturer selling in the US only has to advertise in one language — English — in order to reach a consumer retail mar-

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## Men at work

**SO** "women still do the housework" (Life is still a chore for women, December 1). The implication being that men are nothing but a bunch of idle layabouts. Here is a simple test for all feminists everywhere. Take a piece of paper, go to the window, and write down everything in sight that has been built or is maintained by women.

I can give the answer now. The paper will remain blank, because roads, pavements, buildings, cars, TV, gas, electricity and everything else that makes up modern civilisation has been put there by men. Were it not for men, women would still be living in caves. This message will, of

course, never be accepted by the legions of feminists, far too many of whom have infiltrated the Guardian. Matthew Johnston, Lancing, W Sussex.

**YOUNG** women suffer more from one form of lung cancer. So it is proposed that they be targeted to reduce smoking. Women are also targeted for breast cancer, cancer of the cervix, osteoporosis and anything else that affects them mainly or more. Plus, of course, well women's clinics. Clapnet are not targeted for smoking, pneumoconiosis, prostate cancer or, indeed, for research into why they die on average seven years younger than women. Could one factor be preferential treatment? R M Kingston, London.

## Sabre-rattling Chilean generals must not override the rule of law in Britain

**ERIC** Hobsbawm is wrong when he argues that the immediate issue concerning the Pinochet case is the interests of the democratic process in Chile (Letters, December 2). It is about upholding the rule of law. The Criminal Justice Act 1988 gave our courts extra-territorial jurisdiction over acts of torture committed by public officials anywhere in the world, and it is inconceivable that Parliament would not have foreseen that a degree of political unrest would be caused by the exercise of this extra-territorial jurisdiction.

One can only conclude that Parliament gave precedence to the interests of human rights and the administration of justice, by extending this argument to the current extra-

dition case brought against General Pinochet, the interests of justice must take precedence over any other political considerations, including the state of democracy in Chile. We must not let sabre-rattling by the Chilean military affect the rule of law in our country. Andres Herrera, Northfield, Birmingham.

**THE** real issue is the mes-

sage that they are not free to destroy democracy by torturing and killing its supporters. To send Pinochet home now would send a completely different message which would give hope to those clinging on

to power by further repression. Andy Woolley, Rossendale, Lancashire.

**THE** Financial Times recently reported that a case of alleged corrupt dealings between Pinochet's son, Augusto, and the army was dropped on the president's orders. This is the reality which gives the lie to the Chilean Foreign Minister's assurances that the general will stand trial for his crimes if he is returned to Chile.

The reaction to Pinochet's arrest has drawn attention to the survival of some very ugly forces in Chilean society. Until these forces are faced up to, Chile's democracy will remain "endangered". Hobs-

hawm proposes instead that they should enjoy yet another concession. Is pandering to the generals and the far right really the way to achieve "democratic progress" in Chile? Prof Alex Callinicos, University of York.

**AS** a long-standing admirer of Eric Hobsbawm's work I am sorry to see that, for two months running, he is giving bad advice to New Labour. I suspect Tony Blair will have noted and ignored his advice on globalisation in the recent one-off issue of Marxism Today. I certainly hope Jack Straw does the same and rejects his advice to send Pinochet back to Chile.

I do not see how Eric can reconcile his two views. In

Marxism Today he argued that social democracy is resurgent and ripe for a challenge to neo-liberalism. In your letters page he argues that Chilean democracy is so weak that actually moving towards applying global principles of justice to Pinochet threatens a return to the past. I think not. Clir Steve Mundy, Liverpool.

**LEADERS** of the Chilean Left, including survivors who were in office in 1970-73, told Hobsbawm that returning Pinochet to Chile would "do least harm to the chances of democratic progress". Are these the same political leaders who, in the summer of 1973, advised Salvador Allende that the way to preserve democracy was to give

Pinochet a seat in government? Historians should learn from mistakes of the past, not repeat them. Chris Harman, London.

**THE** suggestion that General Pinochet should lodge with Margaret Thatcher whilst on bail has not been followed up. However, making him live on the same housing estate as Bruce Forsyth and Russ Abbot comes a very close second. John O'Dwyer, Houghton Regis, Beds.

**MAYBE** Pinochet should stay in Wembley Stadium whilst he awaits his fate. Martin Davidson, London.



Freddie Young

# A legend with the lens

**F**REDDIE Young, who has died aged 96, was the doyen of British cinematographers. He was a triple Oscar winner — for *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Doctor Zhivago* and *Ryan's Daughter* — and in 1972 was named as only the second Fellow of the British Association for Film and Television Arts; the first was Alfred Hitchcock. Young deserved the honours, for his distinguished career, and as a recognition for the art he had represented for 50 years.

Whatever hand the director plays in the screenplay or in the editing rooms, a talented director of photography adds an indispensable, independent pair of eyes, to which novice directors often owe success and experienced ones learn to respect.

Young provided that *alter ego* on a hundred movies. By 1972, at just 70, he had recently completed a 15-month slog on David Lean's *Ryan's Daughter* (1970). On the epic *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) his shimmering work had added immeasurably to the film's stature. Young was often called on for big movies, with strenuous schedules, and specialised in period settings.

He joined the industry during the silent era and was first credited as assistant cameraman on *Rob Roy* (1932). By 1934 he had notched up 25 credits on such forgotten works as *The Somme* (1927), the farce *Up for the Cup* (1931) and a popular version of Noel Coward's *Butter Sweet* (1933). The following

year its director Herbert Wilcox employed Young on the modestly budgeted treatment of the love affair between Charles II and Nell Gwynn. Anna Neagle (Wilcox's wife) played the title role and in 1937 the team were reunited with writer Miles Malleon on another historical drama, *Victoria the Great*. This boasted a starrier cast, a bigger budget, and the final reel, in colour. This and movies such as *Goodbye Mr*

One critic remarked that Doctor Zhivago did for snow what Lawrence Of Arabia had done for sand



*Chips and Nurse Edith Cavell* (both 1939), led Young to his first collaboration with film makers of the first rank: Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger.

*Contraband* (1940), a modest war-time melodrama, was followed by their entertaining piece of propaganda shot in Canada, *49th Parallel*. Starring Eric Portman and Laurence Olivier, this prestige movie marked something of a turning point in Young's career. Although it fell to other great cameramen (Jack Cardiff, Christopher Challis) to work on Powell and Pressburger's colour successes, Young was — after the war ended — to make that transition to colour and to work on bigger budgeted films.

The first of these, Gabriel Pascal's *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1946), was not a happy experience. The huge sets, all-star cast and interminable schedule, proved an apprenticeship in stamina for Lean's similarly prodigious *Ryan's Daughter*. However, it relaunches Young's career and for 25 years he worked non-stop on A movies, often for MGM and for American directors working in Britain.

For one of these, *Ivanhoe* (1950), directed by Richard Thorpe, he received an Oscar nomination, and followed it with the same director's lavish *Knights of the Round Table*. Other Americans of greater note asked for him — George Cukor on *Edward My Son* (1949), and *Bhowani Junction* (1956), John Ford on *My Darling Clementine* (1946) and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1957), and *On the Beach* (1959), Edward Dmytryk

on *So Well Remembered* (1947) and Gene Kelly, who as star, choreographer and director of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) relished that professional extra pair of eyes. Notable challenges of the period included Vincente Minnelli's widescreen treatment of the life of Van Gogh, *Lust for Life* (1956), and the commercial success *Fun of the Fair* (1958), where Young had the task of making Wales double for the story's Chinese setting.

Much of his work was international — *Island in the Sun* (1957), *Solomon and Sheba* (1959) — but in 1961 he photographed *The Greening of Sum-*



Robert Mitchum in a scene from *Ryan's Daughter*... Freddie Young was 70 when he completed his gruelling 15-month spell on the film

mer, based on Rumer Godden's novel, where the pastel shaded cinematography enhanced the restrained performances and direction. A year later such British understatement faded as Young, aided by Nic Roeg, battled on locations with *Lawrence of Arabia*. The desert sequences and the overall grandeur became part of cinema legend and no work brought him greater acclaim.

After Lawrence the romantic *The Seventh Dawn* and the caper *Rotten to the Core* must have seemed a rest cure. Not so, *Doctor Zhivago* (1966) which — as one critic remarked — did for snow

what Lawrence had done for sand. Young moved on to a better epic, *Lord Jim*. In 1967, Sidney Lumet arrived in Britain to direct a Le Carré novel, retitled *The Deadly Affair*. He set Young the task of deglamorising London into a murky world for its doomed characters to inhabit. After the characteristic luminosity and energy of earlier films, it looked a grim affair indeed.

Lewis Gilbert — possibly rewarding him for *The Greening of Summer*, used him (and Bob Huke) on the Bond *You Only Live Twice* (1967) and at the end of a busy decade he found himself in Ireland with

Ryan, before the lavish *Nicholas and Alexandra* in 1971. Surprisingly, in his mid-eighties Young turned director. *Arthur's Hallowed Ground* (1986) was a modest, personal film starring Jimmy Jewel as a cricket groundsman who determines to put his pitch against officialdom. It proved a charming coda to Young's career.

Twice married, he is survived by his wife Joan and son David.

The disastrous *The Blue Bird* (1976) reunited him with Cukor and he later shot the play *Stevie* (1978). But his final works as director of photography were less noteworthy: *The Sword of the Valiant* (1983) and a little later

the feeble comedy *Invitation to a Wedding*.

Frederick (Freddie) A. Young, cinematographer, born October 9, 1902; died December 1, 1998

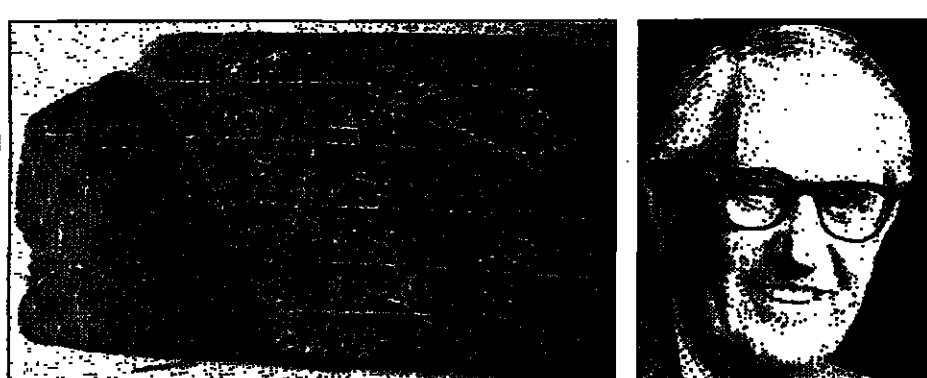
John Chadwick

## The ancient Greeks had a pictogram for it

**T**HE classical scholar John Chadwick, who has died aged 78, played a leading role in one of the most important and exciting linguistic discoveries of the century, the decipherment of Linear B, the writing used by the Mycenaean civilisation of bronze-age Greece.

Incorrigibly modest, Chadwick always took second place to Michael Ventris, his colleague in the extraordinary breakthrough. Ventris, had the original inspiration that the symbols of Linear B must represent syllables in an early version of Greek rather than some other, indeterminate eastern Mediterranean language. But, as one of his Cambridge colleagues confirmed after his death, Chadwick brought the expertise of a Greek philologist to the arduous and brilliant research, unaided by computers, that proved the theory.

Ventris was an architect but also an amateur linguist of genius. He had been interested in the mysterious, fire-hardened clay tablets, found in Crete and later in mainland Greece, ever since, as a schoolboy, he heard a 1936



One of the clay tablets containing Linear B, and John Chadwick, who helped to decipher it

lecture by their discoverer, the archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans. Evans identified two systems, Linear A, used by the earlier Minoan civilisation (definitely not Greek) and Linear B, which he never dreamed could be Greek.

Examining the Cretan tablets in 1951, Ventris deduced that certain groups of ideographic syllables represented place-names on the island, which were often pre-Greek, such as *ko-no-so* for Knossos. An experiment he ascribed the same sound-values to the same symbols when they ap-

peared in other words whose meaning could be guessed from their design and context, such as pictograms for men, women and children. Time after time the result seemed to resemble words in very ancient Greek.

Ventris therefore turned to Chadwick, then a Cambridge classicist lecturer and a specialist in the early history of the language, for help. They published a controversial first paper in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* in 1953 but were vindicated shortly afterwards when a new find of tab-

lets at Pylos in Greece was deciphered using their method. The tablets contain lists of assets such as food, arms, livestock and people.

Not only had they "cracked" Linear B; by doing so they had shown for the first time that the Mycenaean civilisation that used it, more than 1,000 years before Persians governed Athens, was Greek. It had ruled in Crete as well as such mainland sites as Mycenae, Tiryns and Pylos, for some 400 years until it was mysteriously destroyed, perhaps by a vast

earthquake or volcanic explosion. The stunning discovery also lent strength to Homer's scholars who were confirmed in their theories about the date of the war against Troy and its destruction by bronze-age Greeks, as described by the poet centuries later.

Chadwick and Ventris wrote up their findings in the magisterial work, *Documents in Mycenaean Greek*, published in 1956 just before Ventris died in a car crash, and revised by Chadwick in 1973. He was the sole author of *The Decipherment of Linear B* in 1968, which made an intricate process of decryption readily accessible to the lay reader.

John Chadwick was born at East Sheen, London, and educated at St Paul's School and Corpus Christi, Cambridge. After wartime Royal Navy Special Branch service he took his degree and started work as a lexicographer with Oxford University Press. Six years later he returned to Cambridge to lecture in classics, working at the university from 1952 until his 1984 "retirement" by which time he was Perceval Maitland Laurence Reader in classics.

John Chadwick, classical scholar, born May 21, 1920; died November 24, 1998

But he carried on living in Cambridge, lecturing, writing and working as a dictionary editor until the day of his death. Reserved, he struck many people as aloof, even forbidding, an impression dispelled by closer acquaintance, according to other academics. He was particularly solicitous of his students, with whom he kept in touch long after they went down.

Although never given a professor's chair, Chadwick was showered with academic honours by half a dozen countries and was a member of many leading international academic societies. He was also a Fellow of the British Academy and of Downing College, Cambridge. He wrote several further books on Mycenaean culture and other classical subjects and at the time of his death he had completed preparations for a new Greek lexicon, which is to go ahead.

John Chadwick married Judith Hill in 1947; they had one son.

Dan van der Vat

John Chadwick, classical scholar, born May 21, 1920; died November 24, 1998

Les Lilley

## Lifetime of laughter in strips and scripts

**F**OR 14 years Les Lilley, who has died aged 73, chaired the Cartoonists' Club. He also founded what became the Comic Creators Guild, and in 1984 co-founded the Federation of European Cartoonists' Organisations.

For most of his life, Les wrote cartoon strips. There was *Better Or Worse* for the *Daily Herald*, *Scruff* for the *Sun*, *Chooch* and *Tunk* for the *Daily Express*, *The Seekers* for the *Daily Sketch*. There were strips for *Titbits* magazine and the *Sunday Citizen*, and hundreds of pages for children's comics, including two consecutive years of an entire Odhams comic annual.

He also scripted plays for television and the theatre but was most proud of his radio work. He collaborated with Chic Jacob on scripts for Arthur Askey, Dick Emery and Roy Hudd, and for ATV co-wrote more than 300 *Golden Shot* scripts for Charlie Williams.

Les had attended the inaugural meeting of the Cartoonists' Club in Fleet Street, on All Fools Day, April 1, 1960. Most cartoonists, as freelancers, work from home. A feature of those early days was an annual convention, hosted by Billy Butlin, at one of his camps. The club's fringe events included *The World's Worst Singer* competition, and a 30-strong, entirely inaudible, Russian Choir.

Lilley was born in Dartford, Kent, educated at Dartford Grammar School, and began work with the Post Office. After wartime naval service he joined the Keith Prowse



"Mother, Herbert and I have decided on a trial separation" — a Lilley cartoon published by the *Daily Sketch*

ticket agency. After a lean period in the 1970s, the last 15 years were the busiest of Lilley's career.

He never claimed to be much of an artist — his drawings had the meandering quality of Thurber — but the captions were certainly sharp. He never lost his enthusiasm; he was a fount of Cartoonists' Club memories and gave steady support to younger cartoonists.

He married Audrey Adams in 1962 and they had a son and a daughter.

Bryan Reading

Leslie Alfred Joseph Lilley, cartoonist, born November 29, 1924; died October 18, 1998

Lonnie Pitchford

## Making the blues with wire and nails

**L**ONNIE Pitchford, who has died from complications following pneumonia at 63, was presented to the international community of blues enthusiasts in the early 1960s as a young man playing what may be the oldest of all blues instruments, the home-made monochord called a "didley bow".

Rural blues guitarists often describe in their reminiscences how as youngsters they would make up songs from a broom, stretch it between two nails hammered into the side of a barn, push a bottle or tin beneath it and while sliding a bottle up and down at the other.

Pitchford modernised the device by constructing a monochord from pieces of an old guitar, but at folk festivals

he sometimes demonstrated the old way by building a didley bow on stage out of wire, nails, a piece of two-by-four and a squashed snuff tin.

He was born near Lexington, Mississippi, and heard blues playing from his father. Forbidden to use his father's guitar he improvised a didley bow. "I'd just go to playing anything that came to mind... little game tunes, folk ditties, blues, spirituals. I would often make up songs about my brothers and sisters... like when one of them would get a whuppin', come outside crying and I would be singing about his misery."

As a teenager, encouraged by the Mississippi folklorist Worth Long, Pitchford made several didley bows and played them at the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of

American Folklife. In his twenties, now equipped with a real guitar, he played in local blues and soul bands, and on Sundays with gospel groups.

He spent periods in the north working at factory or shop jobs, first in Chicago, then in Kansas, Michigan and Kansas City, but he was at home in Lexington in 1980 when he made his first recordings, for the German blueshunters Axel Kister and Siegfried Christmann. They issued his electric one-string guitar interpretations of blues by John Lee Hooker, Little Walter and Elmore James in a series of anthologies for the German L + R Records, *Living Country Blues USA*.

Thereafter Pitchford was invited to numerous folk fes-

tivals, toured in Europe and Australia, took part in documentary films such as *Alan Lomax's The Land Where the Blues Began* and Robert Palmer's *Deep Blues*, and contributed to several LP anthologies recorded at blues festivals. He met, and learned from, older Mississippi musicians on the "country blues" circuit like Sam Chatman, Jack Owens, Houston Stackhouse, Honeyboy Edwards and, especially, Eugene Powell, who died four days before him.

In 1994 Pitchford recorded his first full album, *All Around Man*, for the Mississippi-based Rooster Blues Records. It revealed a blues talent that extended far beyond the singularity of his one-string guitar pieces, embracing dark John Lee Hooker-like chants, pop and soul

numbers such as *Sunny* and *The Ghetto*, original compositions and pieces from the repertoire of the giant of Mississippi blues, Robert Johnson.

In the notes to the album he wrote: "Like most other black blues singers, I still have to work at something else to make my daily living. So I'm a carpenter. I build houses, do fix-up... whatever." One of his jobs was rebuilding the studio in Clarkdale where he later recorded his album, and where he had recently been working on its successor.

He is survived by his wife, mother, two sisters and four brothers.

Tony Russell

Lonnie Pitchford, blues musician, born October 8, 1935; died November 8, 1998

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Birthdays

Trevor Bailey, former English cricketer, 75; Prof Ian Butterworth, former principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, 68; Mike Gibson, rugby international, 66; Jean-Luc Godard, film director, 66; Daryl Hannah, actress, 38; Eamonn Holmes, broadcaster, 39; Maxwell Hutchinson, architect, 50; Prof Geoffrey Kirk, Greek scholar, 77; Franz Klammer, skier, 45; Ralph McTell, singer-songwriter, 54; Tanya Moisewitsch, stage and costume designer, 44; Rev Prof Charles Moule, theologian, 90; Paul Nicholas, actor and singer, 53; Ozzy Osbourne, rock singer, 30; Robert Phillips, chief executive, Guardian Media Group, 53; Mel Smith, actor and comedian, 46; Prof Andy Williams, singer, 68; Muriel Wilson, former chair, Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, 77; Katarina Witt, figure skater, 33.

Deaths

**G. Tharp writes:** Your obituary of Quentin Crewe (November 16) reminded me of something he wrote in the record of his Sahara journey: "The best book of the Sahara I've ever read is by Captain Cunningham, written in the early twenties." A wonderfully unselfish recommendation which, with the help of my local library I followed up. Having enjoyed Crewe's intensely interesting account, I was delighted to read Cunningham's very much earlier and no less fascinating story, a magnificent opportunity to contrast two intelligent persons' experiences 50 years or so apart. Cunningham boldly and with obvious affection dedicated his work to his camel: "To my devoted camel companion with heart of gold and true as steel." Not a bad epitaph for a much-travelled traveller, perhaps.

**Midge Mackenzie writes:** Despite what was written in the obituary of Eric Ambler (October 30) John Huston's *Battle of San Pietro* is definitely not a re-enacted combat film, nor does it include scenes of "GIs bundling their dead uncannily into body bags." These scenes are a tender, deeply respectful moment in the film and Huston detected

stream from where I found the fish, and tracking at various times of the year has revealed they stay there even in the coldest weather. In contrast a heron had not fared as well as the other: it lay dead on the side of the burn at the bottom of our paddock. I suspect it had become too weak in the recent cold snap to make it to the coast. It was sad to see the crumpled heap of dead feathers, the long spindly legs and the dagger-shaped bill that was impressive even in death.

RAY COLLIER

### CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A News in Brief item headed, Pension clawback attacked, Page 27, yesterday, we said, "Around 45 per cent of private-sector and 6 per cent of public-sector schemes claw back pensions. Some of the worst offenders are... J Sainsbury, Anglian Water, BOC Group, Courage, Ford and NatWest..." The reference to these companies was completely wrong. None of them makes any deduction from pensions in respect of the basic state pension or the lower earnings limit. The error, which was entirely

ours, occurred through a misreading of information supplied by the Abolish Clawback Campaign. Apologies to all.

**THE PHILOSOPHER,** Foucault, was called Michel, not Jean as he appeared on Page 5, yesterday.

**THE CAPTION** to a photograph, Guardian Higher Education, Page 5, December 1, said, Radical thinker: David Suzuki keeps his scientific and moral beliefs separate. In saying that, the caption completely reversed the sense of

the accompanying article. It might correctly have said, David Suzuki no longer keeps... etc.

**It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5559 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5937. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk**

### A Country Diary

**RIVER NAIRN:** A walk down the nearby river with two of our six miniature dachshunds always gives the opportunity to see signs of the resident otters. Tracks are the normal giveaway but this time what appeared to have been two otters had dragged a hen salmon away from the side of the river. The front half of the fish had been eaten but it was a mystery why they had not eaten the golden coloured eggs which were scattered over the grass, apart from a large clump close to the remains. I took

the dachshunds back to the house and then went back with camera and tripod. A hooded crow rose from the fish as I approached but again it did not look as though any eggs had been taken. Having taken the photographs I went to the riverbank and did the same with the two sets of otter tracks. Apart from the wildcat — if there are still true wildcats left — the most elusive mammal in the Highlands is the otter, and I have only actually seen one once on this river. The bolt is under a large alder just up-

### Death Notices

**SEBASTIAN,** Reverend Ralph Percival, peacefully at home on 20th November 1998, aged 82. Early loved husband of Patricia, father of Elizabeth and John and grandfather of Lucy, Anna, Harriet and William. Funeral at 11.30am on 11th January 1999 church yet to be arranged. Family home only. Donations to The Alzheimer's Disease Society and the RCUK and enquiries to David Bishop at 01243 40224.

**SHEPHERD,** Winifred, much loved sister, born 1914, died 22nd November 1998, aged 83. Cremation at Gurnee's Green on 10th December at 3pm.

### Memorial Services

**GORMON,** Markus Gormon CBE FRSL, a memorial service in celebration of his life will be held at St Paul's, Covent Garden, at noon on Thursday 14th January 1999. To place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4007 or fax 0171 733 4070 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.



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Thursday December 3 1998

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It's the poor who suffer, page 12

Tomorrow: GEC looks to the future

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239 9610  
Fax: 0171-833 4456

# FinanceGuardian

Ministers face hefty bill for state aid

## BMW drives hard bargain

David Gow  
Industrial Editor

**B**MW, the Rover car maker's German owner, will press the Government for hundreds of millions of pounds in state aid as the price for going ahead with up to £1 billion of investment to build a new medium-sized car at its Longbridge plant.

The chairman of BMW, Bernd Pischetsrieder, yesterday said that his board has so far approved only around 240 million of capital to build the new Mini.

This is despite the ground-breaking deal brokered with unions that envisages at least 2,500 job cuts, radical changes in working patterns, slashing of overtime and deep cuts in agreed pay increases in the next two years in exchange for a 35-hour week.

The deal, which David Gow, Rover's personnel director, claimed breaks the "old mould" of British manufacturing, is expected to be approved by the company's 38,000-strong workforce in a secret ballot over the next few days after a strong recommendation from union officials and shop stewards. The result is due on December 11.

It had been expected to trigger up to £1.7 billion of investment at Longbridge on top of the £2.5 billion BMW has invested in Rover since it took over in 1994.

The bulk of this, between 800 million and £1 billion, is to make the ageing plant ready for the Rover 200 and 400 series' replacement, which is due to go into production in 2002 and is designed to expand BMW's sales worldwide.

Rover's German parent plans to produce 500,000 of the medium-sized car a year, compared with 150,000 new Minis. Mr Pischetsrieder would not reveal the amount of state aid BMW is seeking, although analysts suggest it could be as much as £250 million. He said BMW is seeking a serious disadvantage by unfair competi-



Ins and outs... Walter Hasselkus (above left) with Bernd Pischetsrieder at yesterday's press conference in London, and (below) Werner Sömann

tion from other car firms receiving grant aid. Larry Brooks, Rover negotiator at the engineering union MSR, said the unions would back BMW's case with ministers. But he insisted that the board would not have gone ahead with the Mini investment at Longbridge unless the company had already agreed to build the new medium-sized car there too.

Tony Woodley, chief union negotiator, said: "I can't believe that, based on normal criteria for grant aid, that agreement won't be struck between BMW and government. I have no doubt whatever that a medium-sized car will be built in Longbridge."

Mr Pischetsrieder warned that the board wants other conditions met before approval is given. These include a lower value for stamp duty, preferably with the UK in planning to enter the single

currency with the pound at 2.55 to the mark rather than the current DM2.72.

The BMW chairman also sent a shiver through Midlands component manufacturers by demanding that they lower their prices and improve quality, or Rover might be forced to source most of its parts elsewhere.

This took the shine off Mr Woodley's assertion that the deal could save up to 50,000 Midlands jobs, particularly among suppliers.

Under the deal, which will bring Rover annual savings of £150 million from 2000, production employees will shift to a four-day working week, with "standard" hours cut to 35 from 37, plus overtime now.

Saturday working will be treated as normal up to midday but will not be compulsory if staff fulfil their quota by early starts and shorter lunch breaks during the week.



## Affable UK chief quits to make way for technocrat

David Gow

**A**BOARDROOM row made BMW tighten its grip on Rover's operations yesterday by appointing a Bavarian engineer to head its UK subsidiary after the surprise resignation of Walter Hasselkus as chairman.

Dr Hasselkus, an affable lawyer turned salesman, agreed to become the sacrificial lamb for Rover's disastrous performance, including projected £500 million losses this year. He will be replaced by Professor Werner Sömann as part of a management shake-up that brings German engineering and technical expertise to the fore.

Citing a Latin phrase, Dr Hasselkus insisted he had jumped rather than been pushed. But the BMW board has come under pressure at home to wield the scalpel among Rover's top managers as the share price has tumbled and its huge investment has failed to pay off in earnings and market share.

Key members of the board, led by Wolfgang Reitzle, a former Rover chairman, are known to have pressed Dr Hasselkus, the BMW chairman, to cut his losses and pull out of Rover altogether.

Expressing regret at Dr Hasselkus's abrupt departure, senior union sources said: "Without Bernd Pischetsrieder's personal support and commitment we would have had difficulty in getting an agreement

and may even have had no Rover at all."

Dr Hasselkus, Rover's chief executive since September 1996, said he had taken his decision because "somebody has to be prepared to stand and be counted".

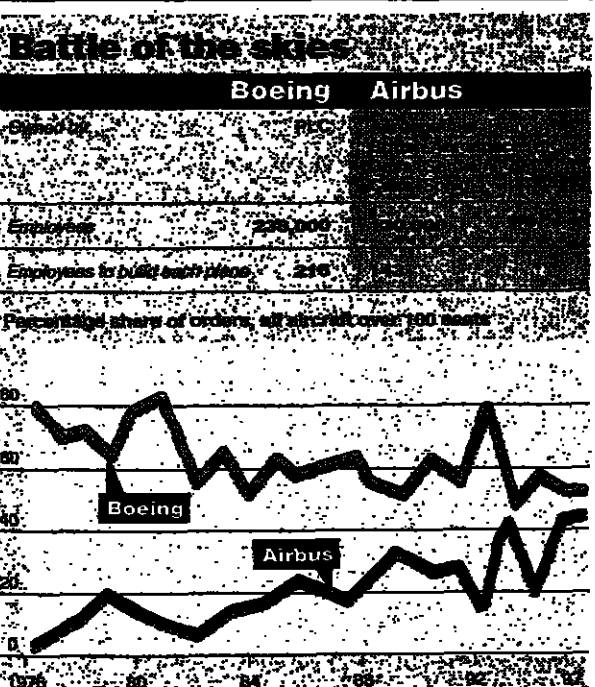
He added: "Rover's performance was influenced by a lot of external factors beyond our control but you can't just blame these. We got it simply wrong in not accepting the ferocity of the competition in the British market."

"This was a very difficult and painful decision for me, not least because I'm emotionally very attached to Rover, the management team and all its employees. I've even learned to like Tony Woodley [chief union negotiator]."

Prof Sömann, who has worked for BMW since 1976, has been head of its engine and suspension division since 1992 and takes over at Rover on January 1. "He's not a hatchet-man but someone who can lead us forward," a senior Rover official said with obvious relief.

Rover officials said privately that Dr Hasselkus had been the victim of changed circumstances, notably the strong pound and the Asian crisis which had depressed the car firm's market share. Observers also pointed to the gap between running down old models and launching new ones.

Mr Rhodes, his saviour (Here is Rhodes, here I jump).



## Suppliers fear nosedive after Boeing job cuts

Mark Tran in New York

**B**OEING'S 350 British suppliers are expected to be crippled by the company's plans to scale back production levels and slash 48,000 jobs.

The US planemaker yesterday warned that next year's financial results would be sharply down from previous forecasts. The job cuts amount to a 20 per cent reduction in Boeing's workforce from 338,000 in June. Seventy per cent of Boeing's European suppliers are based in Britain.

British Aerospace, which makes small components for the affected models, and engine-maker Rolls-Royce said it was too early to tell if any action was needed. Smiths Industries, which manufactures electrical controls for Boeing, has cut back its operations.

Boeing shares plunged yesterday, dragging down Wall Street, after the world's largest aircraft maker shocked analysts with lower profit forecasts despite cost-cutting. The Seattle-based aircraft maker is America's biggest exporter.

Alan Mulally, Boeing Commercial Airplane Group president, blamed Asia's economic slump for the company's latest manoeuvres.

Boeing's decision to scale back production of passenger planes did not surprise Wall Street. But analysts were stunned by the downward revision of profit margins despite cost-cutting. Boeing said its commercial aircraft operating margin for 2000 could be 1 per cent to 3 per cent, a decline from the 1999 estimate.

Boeing has been offering discounts on its aircraft under intense competitive pressure from Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

It is still reeling from its decision in 1996 to crank up production to record levels to meet booming demand from the world's airlines and to win orders against Airbus. But it could not deliver. Costs soared because of overtime payments and assembly lines ground to a halt because parts did not arrive in time.

Last year, Boeing took a \$4 billion charge and made a loss of \$173 million, its first in 50 years. It is still committed to delivering 650 planes this



Plans to reduce production of Boeing 747s were among cuts announced by the world's largest aircraft maker, which blamed the Asian economic crisis

year, a record 820 in 1999 and 490 in 2000. Total sales in 1999 should come to \$56 billion, declining to \$50 billion for the following year.

Boeing said it would reduce production of 747 jettisoners from 2.5 to two aircraft a month late next year, and to one a month in early 2000, if market conditions failed to improve. Production of 737

jets will drop from five to four a month and the 767 programme will drop from four to three aircraft a month in early 2000.

The latest job cuts anger Boeing's suppliers, who are given no warning. "It's affected everyone pretty badly. Everybody's scared they're going to get laid off," said a worker on 777 jettisoners at Boeing's Everett assembly plant.

lations with their largest union helped trigger a 60-day walkout three years ago.

The size of the job cuts surprised Boeing employees. Union leaders said they were given no warning. "It's affected everyone pretty badly. Everybody's scared they're going to get laid off," said a worker on 777 jettisoners at Boeing's Everett assembly plant.

## Airbus partner to hire extra staff

David Gow

**D**ASA, the German partner in the Airbus consortium, is expected to underpin the sorry performance of arch-rival Boeing by taking on hundreds of new employees to meet record orders.

Owned by DaimlerChrysler, Dasa has already employed some 1,000 new staff this year in its Airbus operations and is likely to announce more new jobs later today.

Deriding Boeing's decision to blame its latest round of 20,000 job-losses on the 18-month-old Asian crisis as "a bit naive", Airbus officials said worldwide orders for aircraft remained at a peak despite the economic downturn.

Airbus is made up of four partners: British Aerospace, France's Aerospatiale and Spain's Casa as well as Dasa. Together they employ around half the staff of their American rival.

Airbus pointed out last night that total global orders for new aircraft above 100 seats had averaged 1,000 in each of the last three years compared with the 300-350 norm in a severe downturn.

In 1998 Airbus sold 326 planes, rising to 480 last year and 503 in the first 11 months of this year.

Deliveries rose from 126 in 1996 to 182 last year and are expected to be close to 230 this year, up 25 per cent on 1997. A 25 per cent rise in deliveries to 280 is expected next year.

Airbus said it had been more careful in tailoring production increases to meet demand than Boeing, which hit production bottlenecks when it tried to step up output.

The consortium, with its headquarters in Toulouse, now has a backlog of 1,300 orders, equivalent to more than four years of production. Airbus admits orders will fall off in the coming years, but it has continued to outgun its American rival in markets Boeing used to dominate, such as Latin America.

### Notebook

## Change is needed in the Interim



Alex Brummer

**T**HE speed with which the process of international economic reform is moving now is impressive. It was inconceivable even a few months ago what finance ministers would consider an emergency meeting of the IMF's Interim Committee in January — but that proposal is now bowling along.

The main reason for this high-level response is the scale of the crisis, as demonstrated when President Clinton showed up at a meeting of industrial and emerging market finance ministers in Washington. The crisis is not over. Michel Combes, as struggling with the Russians; the World Bank (in its new global economic prospects) is forecasting the second-worst outlook for developing countries for 30 years and the effects are being felt in the most developed countries, as the Boeing lay-offs demonstrate.

But gatherings like that planned in Washington for January do not just happen. They are part of a process. This has largely been driven by the crisis, as recent chairman of the Group of Seven, with close support from the Americans, notably Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and his deputy, Larry Summers.

The special IMF session would deal with a number of critical issues: the establishment of global financial regulator, an issue being explored by the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer. Other issues include the incorporation of the codes of good monetary and fiscal conduct into the IMF's inspection procedures and addressing issues of social exclusion in IMF programmes. The process of moving towards greater transparency, it is hoped, would ease some of the uncertainties which have arisen with free and open capital markets.

Finally, the Interim Committee, now headed by the Italian Carlo Ciampi, needs to reform itself. The French have talked of transforming it into an IMF Council, envisaged at Bretton Woods but never fully implemented. However, that may involve some complex shifts in shareholding; never easy. The critical issues are giving the Interim Committee an executive role and making its membership more relevant to where emerging-market power is now vested: if the IC fails to modernise, its members will have no one but themselves to blame were authority to shift to an alternative institution such as the G22, set up by the Americans and involving all the key emerging-market economies.

from Hong Kong to Brazil. One hopes that this time leading finance ministers can put differences about national pride behind them and address fundamental weaknesses in the global economic structure: failure to do so would mean that the events of August/September could simply be a rehearsal for the even worse instability to come.

### Deutsche ambition

**S**OMEWHAT predictably, Deutsche Bank's \$10.1 billion takeover of the second-line US financial institution Bankers Trust is proving fraught with all the usual difficulties: where the jobs are will fall; who will receive bonuses; and in particular who will be singled out for the \$400 million of golden handcuffs. Against this background of greed and hostility, Deutsche Bank's swoop on Credit Lyonnais Belgium should be relatively tame.

Quite sensibly, Deutsche's chief executive, Rolf Breuer, has set his cap at a European target. Deutsche has recognised the need, prior to the launch of the euro, to build a big network across Euroland as feasible — the kind of thing Martin Taylor at Barclays might have talked of in his most expansive moments.

The new acquisition gives Deutsche Bank Belgium's seventh-largest bank with 38 branches to add to the networks it has built in Italy and Spain. Ironically, what is still missing is Germany's partner at the heart of Europe, France — which is exceedingly communitarian except when it comes to foreigners, even Germans, owning its financial system. Efforts, for instance, to make a play for Credit Commercial de France when it was sold off were thwarted. One imagines that Deutsche's stakeholders are much more comfortable with its progressive European strategy than with its foolhardy efforts to become a world-class investment bank.

### High street angst

**R**EMEMBER the crisis at Marks & Spencer? The meltdown in the high street, how Sir Richard Greenbury had lost his touch, why the company needed an infusion of new blood and all of that? Now we know that the 23 per cent plunge in profits was not simply a St Michael phenomenon.

The lesser retailers are joining the parade. Arcadia, the newly disguised owner of Burton, has reported "a sharp downturn in high street spending" which is putting profit margins under pressure. Allied Carpets has signed up to the gloom, talking about an 8.2 per cent sales decline in the first 22 weeks of the financial year. Christmas may change things. But with job losses starting to speed up and stock market confidence again in retreat, as Ronald Reagan would say, you ain't seen nothing yet.

## Greys attack ageist firms

Patrick Collinson

**G**REY POWER groups yesterday launched a coalition against workplace and financial ageism, demanding laws to forbid age discrimination in job adverts and to ban age questions on application forms.

The coalition, Equal Rights on Age, calls the Government's voluntary code of practice on age discrimination, unveiled just two weeks ago, "toothless" and ineffective in fighting "deeply entrenched attitudes".

ERA members include Age Concern, Help the Aged and The Association of Retired and Persons Over 50. It is backed by MPs Quentin Davies and Linda Perham, who have both tried to introduce legislation to ban age discrimination.

In 1976, 95 per cent of men aged 55-65 were employed. Now the figure is closer to 60 per cent as "downsizing" has disproportionately hit older workers. More than eight million people have suffered from ageism, according to a Gallup poll, with job discrimination now beginning as soon as people hit their early forties.

In the US, employers are forbidden to ask for a job applicant's age or for a photograph to be supplied with an application form. ERA wants similar legislation in the UK, as well as

the right to seek compensation at industrial tribunals for age discrimination.

Forty-four-year-old Laurie McBirney of Paignton in Devon, went back to college after losing his job, learnt new skills, joined job clubs and did voluntary work. Yet he has not been able to find work for three years and is convinced his age is the issue.

"A lot of companies say they have an equal opportunities policy but their application forms may as well say 'Don't apply if you are over 40'."

He says employers should be forced to disclose how many people they have interviewed who are aged 40 or over.

Model anti-ageist employers, such as DIY retailer B&Q, were praised at the launch of ERA yesterday. ERA chairman Don Steele said: "B&Q has one store in Macclesfield where all the employees are over 50. Staff turnover is down 65 per cent and profits are up 16 per cent."

ERA will also focus on financial ageism. Mr Steele adds: "Only this morning I received a letter from a 67-year-old who went to buy a new Vespa, only to be told that the zero-interest credit offer was not available to her because she was too old."

Taylor was right, leading shareholders tell caretaker chief executive

# Barclays pressed to split

Jill Treanor

LEADING shareholders in Barclays are understood to be telling the bank's two top executives that they should follow Martin Taylor's plans to split the group and seek mergers for the retail and corporate banking businesses.

The bank's acting chief executive, Sir Peter Middleton, along with outgoing chairman Andrew Buxton, are meeting all the bank's leading shareholders after the unexpected resignation of Mr Taylor as chief executive last week.

One of Barclays' largest institutional investors said yesterday that Mr Taylor's intended strategy of breaking up the group, had "pretty strong" support from shareholders. "We don't want to see a retrenchment from that strategy," he said. "Our view is that Barclays needs to participate in the industry consolidation."

Sir Peter and Mr Buxton are expected to face increasingly vocal demands from shareholders insisting that the structure of the bank should be changed. Confusion continues to surround the cause of Mr Taylor's departure, but it is believed that one of the reasons which forced him to leave was the board's rejection of his idea of having off the bank's retail banking business with another financial institution, it is understood.

The leading shareholder said yesterday that the bank should continue discussions about mergers. "I believe they have been talking for quite some time [to potential merger partners]. Prudential, the leading insurer, continues to be cited as a possible partner, as does Halifax. Sources however, refuse to rule out the possibility of a tie-up with any of the country's leading players."

Mr Taylor is thought to have presented his radical break-up plans to shareholders before he left and had started to win support. However, the board was eager to derail the plan as it might leave the bank more attractive as a takeover target. One senior banker also warned against the idea of splitting off retail banking from corporate and investment banking because of the increasing needs for more complicated financing for retail investment

products. Other large shareholders are believed to share this concern and the scene may be set for a battle between the main shareholders.

During his five years at the helm, Mr Taylor sold off much of BZW, the bank's troublesome investment banking arm, but rolled-up the remaining bond business into Barclays Capital, which has continued to cause headaches. Some sources believe Mr Taylor wanted to disband the entire investment banking operation last year when the sale of BZW was underway. But, again, pressure from the

## World's poorest will bear brunt of global crisis

Mark Atkinson Economics Correspondent

THE World Bank said yesterday that more than a quarter of the population of developing countries — just over a billion people — will suffer falling living standards as a result of the global economic crisis.

Industrialised nations are expected to emerge relatively unscathed with a sharp slowdown in economic activity but developing countries will bear the brunt, with 36 countries experiencing negative per capita growth in 1998, says the Bank.

Even that gloomy scenario hinges on a number of optimistic assumptions, the Bank claims, including no worsening of the recession in Japan, no choking off of private capital flows to Latin America and no stock market crashes in Europe and the United States. "There is still a substantial risk that the world economy will plunge into recession in 1999 rather than experiencing the sluggish growth described in the baseline outlook," said the Bank in its annual report on economic prospects for the developing world.

Under its baseline scenario, global output growth will be nearly halved, from 3.5 per cent in 1997 to 1.8 per cent in 1998, and revive only modestly to 1.9 per cent in 1999.

While Europe is forecast to enjoy strong growth and the US to have a soft landing, de-

veloping countries are expected to suffer the second worst slowdown in the past 30 years.

In per capita terms, growth is expected to slow to 0.4 per cent in 1998, well below the 1.4 per cent expected in industrial countries, while 36 countries, including Brazil, Russia and Indonesia, are likely to see negative per capita growth this year.

The World Bank said the Asian crisis already ranks with the Latin American debt crisis in the 1980s.

"For example, the worst one-year output declines in the Latin American countries during the debt crisis ranged from 3.5 per cent in Brazil to 17.2 per cent in Chile," said the Bank's report. "Indeed, the one-year declines in industrial production of 50 per cent or more in Thailand and Indonesia are comparable to those in the United States and Germany during the Great Depression."

At a press conference in London, Uri Dadush, of the Bank's development prospects group, said that developing countries would suffer most because the crisis had cut global demand for basic commodities, upon which the developing world depended for income. "There has also been a dramatic flight of capital from so-called emerging markets. If this continued, the world economy would suffer from a shock of similar magnitude to the one which hit East Asia."

## Profits warning as shoppers stop buying

### Price-cutting causes pain for Arcadia

Roger Cowe

ARCADIA, Britain's second-biggest clothing retailer, issued a shock profits warning yesterday which emphasised the slump in consumer spending over the past few weeks and the extent of bargains in the shops.

Warning of poor sales and pressure on prices from the group follows news of tough times from other retailers, including Marks & Spencer and Storehouse. The grim picture is likely to be reinforced today by CUS, the market leader, whose sales pattern will give the indication what retailers can expect over the next few weeks.

Arcadia, whose brands include Dorothy Perkins, Burton, Top Shop, Evans and Principles, was forced to issue a trading statement ahead of the publication of a stockbroker's circular from Warburg Dillon Read. The group said sales had slipped since the publication of last year's results at the end of October, and there was little hope of improvement over the crucial Christmas period.

"There has been a sharp

downturn in high street spending," the company said. "The outcome of the first half remains uncertain, with important trading weeks still to come ahead of Christmas. However, with sales to date falling short of expectations, the outlook for the half is not as encouraging as previously anticipated."

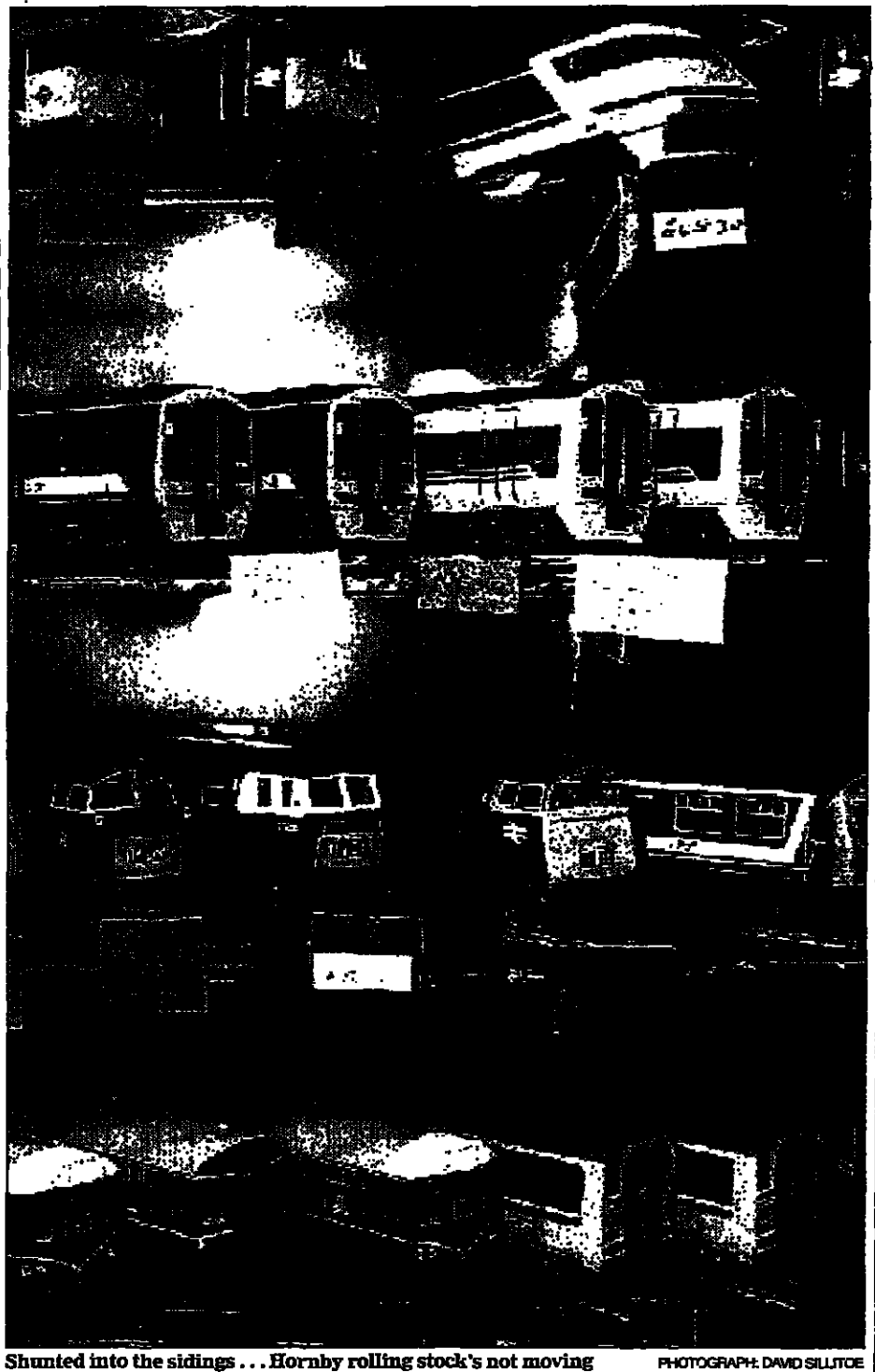
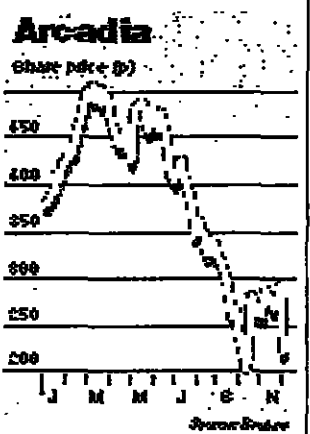
Lower prices, driven by special offers, have been an important in hitting Arcadia's profits as customers' reluctance to spend. The company blamed "high levels of mark-down driven competitor activity" and stressed that the weeks leading up to Christmas are normally a period of full-price sales.

The widespread discounting reflects the slump in consumer spending since the summer, after stores had ordered their Christmas merchandise. The discount frenzy has been reinforced by Marks & Spencer's "autumn value" campaign, with prices 10 to 15 per cent below normal levels in order to clear the season's stocks without resorting to huge sales campaigns.

Nick Bubb, an analyst with Societ Générale Strauss Turnbull, said: "There are volume pressures and margin pressures. Christmas is going to be poor. To undershoot in November is quite a shock, especially when the weather has been relatively kind compared to last year."

In 1997, the warm autumn restrained demand for winter ranges. This year's weather has been more typical.

Arcadia said the poor sales picture applied across the board, with no discernible difference between menswear and womenswear or between the younger chains such as Top Shop and outlets catering for older customers.



### Hornby sales run off the rails

Julia Finch

SALES of Hornby model trains and miniature railway equipment have hit the buffers. Yesterday the company, founded in 1920, warned that this year's profits will fall below the £1.8 million recorded last year.

In an attempt to cut costs, Hornby is to shift almost all its model railway production, together with a new range of controllers and other electronic equipment, to the Far East. Almost all the company's products will be manufactured in China from next year.

Hornby was unveiling first-half profits down 56 per cent from £270,000 to £232,000 as sales fell by 15 per cent to £3.4 million.

The company blamed the downturn in its fortunes on retailers postponing orders in order to cut their stock levels. The strong pound made exporting "more difficult" and overseas sales were down 25 per cent.

Earlier this year Hornby was at the centre of takeover speculation and its shares rose so rapidly, to 22p, that the Stock Exchange ordered the company to clarify its position. Hornby dismissed the rumours and the shares have gone into reverse. In the wake of yesterday's profits warning, they slid a further 37.5p to 147.5p, a new low for the year.

"This disappointing performance reflects the downturn in our UK and export markets," said the company. "It is difficult in current trading conditions to predict accurately an outcome for the full year, but inevitably profits will fall short of those achieved last year."

## News in brief

### Disgraced Newcastle pair get boardroom backing

THE boardroom battle at Newcastle United FC took a new twist yesterday as it emerged that three of the directors want disgraced former executives Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd to be reinstated. Hall and Shepherd, ousted from the boardroom in March after a lurid newspaper exposé, informed chairman Denis Cassidy last Friday that they intended to use their 64 per cent stake in the club to vote themselves back into the boardroom at the club's annual general meeting next Monday.

Cassidy immediately postponed the meeting and has threatened to resign rather than allow the pair to return. He claims he was given an assurance when he took the job in July that the two men would not try to make a comeback. But yesterday a spokesman for Hall and Shepherd said Cassidy was not given any guarantees. And it emerged that the club's chief executive, finance director and property director were supporting Hall and Shepherd.

The spokesman added: "It is quite wrong they should be outside the boardroom looking in. They are determined to press ahead." — Julia Finch

### Marley cements union

LONG RUNNING bid target Marley yesterday succumbed to a \$265 million offer from Bax, the unlisted Belgium-based building materials group. The offer of 125p a share compares with Marley's closing price of 122p, a rise of 15 per cent on the day.

Canio Corbo, chief executive, said the combined group would have "powerful positions in a number of markets, notably roofing, plastic building products, cement board, plasterboard and flooring". The companies did not give any indication whether any jobs would be lost in the merger which brings to an end a lengthy period of uncertainty for Marley. The company, which is 15 per cent owned by Phillips & Drew, made profits of £28.2 million on sales of £282 million last year and has assets of about £282 million. — Lisa Buckingham

### Building industry still in decline

THE construction industry shrank for the third month in a row in November as workloads continued to fall amid slowing economic growth, according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply's monthly survey published yesterday. Orders, employment and purchases of raw materials all fell at the fastest rate in the survey's history.

Based on data gathered from a poll of UK business executives, the seasonally adjusted construction activity index registered 45.8 in November against 45.7 in October. Any reading above 50 indicates an expansion of activity; any reading below shows a decline. "The principal reason for the contraction in overall construction activity was again simply that less work was available," said the CIPS. — Mark Atkinson

### Brewer's £101m defence

MARSTON Thompson & Evershed, the regional brewer, yesterday stepped up its defence against the £260 million hostile bid from its rival Wolverhampton & Dudley by promising its shareholders a £101 million cash bonanza. The Office of Fair Trading also called yesterday for comments on whether the bid needed to be considered on competition grounds. A combination of the two brewers might be able to claim a 17 per cent share of the brewing market in the Central TV region.

Marston's new chief executive, Nick Letcher, argued that Wolverhampton & Dudley's bid price was too low. The Burton on Trent based brewer will return £101 million to shareholders — more than the £60 million it first aimed to achieve — through the securitisation of its tenanted pubs. — Jill Treanor

## Underside

Dan Atkinson

FESTIVE cheer has come a little early for pensioners of the United Friendly insurance group. Year in, year out the company has lived up to its name and dispatched a Christmas hamper to its superannuated servants. Now United is part of the Refuge group, which was refuted with a tough choice. Refuge pensioners have never received hampers, but all pensioners must be treated alike. So Refuge could either (a) extend the hamper to all pensioners or (b) rule that henceforth there would be no hampers for anybody. So, which was it to be? An (empty) hamper for the first to provide the correct answer.

ELSEWHERE among our great institutions, poor sap of the week has to be one WRP Dalton, not a pre-war cricketer nor minor prep-school master, but director and chief executive of the about-to-be-abolished Midland Bank.

WRP is charged with writing personally to Midland customers explaining that parent HSBC was a little economical with the truth back in 1992 when it took over Midland and pledged to keep this fine old handle. Now, WRP announces, Midland is to be relabelled, er, HSBC, a name charmingly evocative of... capital letters. But WRP seems a touch confused. Paragraph four declares the need to subsume Midland into "a strong global brand", but by paragraph six we learn that "first and foremost we are a community bank". Yes,

right (Lloyds application form please).

NOT that Midland is alone in making a public show of itself. Over at Barclays, the UNIFI staff union was down at the House of Commons on Monday lobbying for the abolition of "pension claw-back", the process whereby state pension is docked off the occupational pension. How fortunate that the ranks of the bank's pensioners had just been swollen by three distinguished recruits.

MORE distinguished still is the annual hot-air festival (sorry, "world economic forum") in Switzerland at the end of January. Anyone who is anyone wings in to put the world to rights. Last year, our own Chancellor struck a blow for the non-

VIP classes by giving Davos a wide berth. Sad to say the events of 1998 seem to have convinced Mr Brown that, however remote the chances of hearing anything worthwhile, he ought to make an appearance in 1999.



STILL on the international circuit, Tuesday saw Reinhard Schulze-Braunck — single-currency bigwig — address a euro-seminar organised by General Motors at Zaventem airport, Brussels. With the light, frothy humour for which Germans are renowned, he joked about the Queen's absence on the euro-notes and berated the Brits for making a big deal about it. To tut-tutting in the hall, he "conceded" that Her Majesty may be allowed on the coins. After GM officials chided him, he disappeared pronto and sent an abject apology saying he never meant to diss the Queen.

OVER in Ireland, the Euro-awareness campaign moves into top gear as our nearest neighbour prepares to dive head

first into monetary union. Spotted in the Cork Examiner: "After Euro changeover all wallets must be manufactured to conform to standard Euro size: EU 5622/34A". On closer inspection, it proves merely to be a light-hearted tease issued by the Republic's EMU Business Awareness Campaign. We think.

To end where we began, with the looming Yule. Royal Mail has hired a psychologist to analyse the most appropriate corporate Christmas cards. The traditional Christmas scene is the "safe option", according to Professor Timothy Wheeler, while the humorous card tells customers the business is "friendly". For the truly adventurous there are charity cards which "often feature... religious scenes". Extraordinary.

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## Football

## Kidd warms to idea of Ewood Park

Ian Ross

**B**RIAN KIDD is expected to announce in the next 24 hours whether he wishes to accept the responsibility for preserving Blackburn Rovers' Premiership status.

Kidd is seriously considering leaving his post as assistant to Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson to make the short journey to Ewood Park. Earlier this week the 49-year-old was officially named as Blackburn's first choice to succeed the dismissed Roy Hodgson, but his chance of assuming control at the Lancashire club appeared to have ended on Tuesday with United's refusal to grant him permission to open talks.

United's chief executive Martin Edwards was adamant that Kidd would see out his contract, but now seems to be preparing for a parting of the ways. "It is up to Brian now," he said. "There is a lot of thinking to be done on both sides. I have told Brian about Blackburn's approach and that we turned it down. That is all I can do. We will just have to see what happens next."

Negotiations between Edwards and Kidd will resume this afternoon after being put on hold because of United's involvement in last night's Worthington Cup quarter-final against Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

Although Kidd had a two-month spell of front-line management at Preston in 1986, he has spent a total of 18 years at United, the last seven of them working as Ferguson's right-hand man.

Predictably, Ferguson does not wish to see his managerial team disrupted. "We do not want to lose him," the Old Trafford manager said. "He is very important to United and very important to me. We have an excellent staff and he is a key part of it."

Kidd would dearly like to

succeed Ferguson upon his retirement and is seriously considering Blackburn's offer in the belief that any experience of top-class management — even at a struggling club — would greatly improve his chances of taking control at Old Trafford.

Certainly Kidd would benefit financially if he succumbs to the overtures of Blackburn's wealthy benefactor Jack Walker.

Kidd is believed to earn around £200,000 a year at United, a figure which could be comfortably trebled if he agreed to move. He was faced with an almost identical dilemma only six months ago when he was invited to take control at one of his former clubs, Everton, after the dismissal of Howard Kendall.

Although Kidd was tempted to move, he decided to remain with United after being offered improved terms.

Everton's vice-chairman Bill Kenwright, meanwhile, yesterday said he could not rule out getting a big-business backer to support his efforts to buy out Peter Johnson. "I'm interested in securing Peter's shareholding. I've got a few thoughts, it doesn't have to be Evertonians. But there are a few people who I'll be turning to for help."

"I wouldn't like the thought of a big company, even a media group, coming in on my shoulder. But I wouldn't rule it out."

Kenwright initially plans to hold discussions with his fellow board member Lord Grantchester, the grandson of the former owner Sir John Moores, and other members of the family.

"I'm pretty sure that I'm the man this time, as long as the money is in place with the money to back me. I have access to media groups and showbiz people," he added. "If it is there, I will get it. There are many Everton fans out there in the showbiz world."

Huddersfield's left-back Tom Cowan is ready to return following an 18-month spell on the sidelines with cruciate ligament damage.

Bristol City have agreed a £225,000 fee with the Moldovan club FC Zimbru for 24-year-old defender Ion Testimian, the national captain. Benny Lennartson, the City coach, is also giving trials to the Hungarian internationals Janus Matyas, 23, and Vilmos Sebok, 25, available for a joint fee of £800,000.

Liverpool, already without the suspended Jamie Redknapp and the far-from-match-fit Jean-Michel Ferrer for Saturday's game at Spurs, are hoping that Karlheinz Riedle's calf and Robbie Fowler's ankle recover in time.



Kidd... 18 years at United

## First Division

QPR 1 Ipswich Town 1

## Holland strikes to save Ipswich

Jon Brodwin

**M**ATT HOLLAND equaliser from a Jamie Scowcroft cross one minute into injury-time earned Ipswich a point last night at Loftus Road to deny Rangers the lion's share of the spoils and which would have capped a momentous week for the Super Hoops.

Rangers must have feared the worst after learning that Gerry Francis had been named Manager of the Month for November. Such awards are generally to winning runs that would vote of confidence are to job security.

Francis had little to worry about on that front. Since his return in place of Ray Harford, QPR have climbed off the bottom of the table, scoring more goals in the past five weeks than in the previous three months under Harford.

Francis does, though, have greater incentive than most managers to achieve success. He owns one million shares in Loftus Road plc and plans to considerably increase that investment. "I've been involved in this club in one way or another for 17 years," he said. "And it is in my heart."

QPR found openings hard to come by, which was no surprise. Ipswich arrived with the country's meanest defence and when Kevin Gallen's cross picked out Mike

Shearon his glancing header was too weak to trouble Richard Wright.

Much of the half could have been spent checking the share prices, but the game came to life in the closing stages of the first period. Ipswich's Jamie Scowcroft headed wide before Luděk Mikloško pulled off two sharp saves, first denying Bobby Petta and then diving bravely at the feet of the on-rushing Johnson.

But Wright saved the best until last, indicating why he was called into the last England squad by tipping over Paul Murray's powerful shot after a neat Shearon pass.

The flow of chances continued immediately after the break. Mark Venus sent a long-range shot narrowly wide of Mikloško's left-hand post from outside the box before QPR took a 57th minute lead.

Shearon's pass put Gallen beyond the Ipswich defence and he beat Wright at his near post with a low shot.

Mikloško produced a wonderful save to deny Matthew Holland an equaliser 10 minutes later, keeping out a header which looked beyond his reach.

QPR (3-4-2): Mikloško; Maddox, Morrow, Reedy, Holm, Murray, Langley (South, 39min), Peacock (Rowland, 42), Barrow, Gallen, Shearon (Shearon, 62).

Ipswich (3-4-2): Wright; Thane, Mowbray (Kennedy, 65), Venus; Dyer, Tanner (Hodges, 80), Holland, Petta, Clapham, Johnson, Scowcroft.

Referee: G. Cain (Shefford).

## Juventus confounded at the last

**A**LAST-minute goal from Araya Suat gave Galatasaray a 1-1 draw with Juventus in their politically fraught Champions League game in Turkey last night.

The late equaliser severely dented the Italians' hopes of qualifying for the

quarter-finals after Nicola Amoroso had scored after 78 minutes. Juventus must now beat Rosenborg in Turin next Wednesday and hope Galatasaray lose at Athletic Bilbao.

Foreign, page 7



Running battle... Damien Duff of Blackburn is challenged by Leicester's Matt Elliott during the quarter-final at Flibert Street

ROSS KINNAIRD

Worthington Cup quarter-final: Leicester City 1 Blackburn Rovers 0

## Lennon's head keeps Leicester on target

Trevor Haylett

**T**HE new Blackburn manager, whoever it turns out to be, would have been proud of his team last night but it was Leicester, resilient to the last, who got through to the semi-final of a competition they won two years ago.

A lapse in defence let Rovers down after they had the better of the tie for an hour and in which they came closest to scoring. Nobody in a side galvanised by

the caretaker-manager Tony Parkes was on hand to prevent Neil Lennon converting a free header from a Robbie Savage cross.

Blackburn named a mid-field foursome seriously light in terms of Premiership experience, but this was not another case of giving the reserves their heads. There was ready-made alternative for Parkes, who amid all his other problems is grappling with a debilitating list of absences.

Apart from that quartet he was also without Chris Sutton, even though he has

completed a four-match suspension, and Parkes paired Kevin Davies and Kevin Gallacher in attack for the first time.

They saw considerably more of the ball than the Leicester striking pair early on while the men directly behind them, for all their lack of big-match know-how, showed the spirit and combative quality to take control.

Kasey Keller was involved as early as the second minute when Gallacher swung a free-kick towards the top corner.

Suitably encouraged, Rovers kept up a steady momentum and with Dario Marcolin quick to spot a team-mate in space, Leicester were forced to do a lot of chasing.

Damien Johnson soon produced a strong run after pinching the ball from Rob Ullathorne, but Damien Duff wasted the opportunity. Leicester were nowhere near as fluent and too often their passing was vague, though danger always lurked when they could spread the play wide and invite Steve Guppy to

deliver one of his killing left-wing centres.

Emile Heskey, forced to survive on scraps, had a shot from a long way out when Christian Dailly conceded possession. But there were better alternatives for the powerful young striker and it rather summed up the home team's lack of conviction and thought.

Davies, looking increasingly like a player regaining his form, had two chances as the first half ended. He should certainly have done better with the first, as Leicester paid more

attention to the linesman's flag than the referee's decision to play on and allowed Gallacher to slip him in.

He could only hit his shot straight at the goalkeeper, but he came closer in the 51st minute, when another piece of improvisation sent the ball crashing against the angle of post and bar from an area of little promise well outside the penalty box.

Leicester City (5-3-2): Keller; Savage, Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Guppy, Parker, Ullathorne, Lennon, Heskey, Fenton. Blackburn (4-4-2): Filan; Kenna, Hinchey, Dailly, Davidson, Johnson, Dunn, Marcolin, Duff, Davies, Gallacher. Referee: A White (Chester-le-Street).

## Results

## Football

## WORTHINGTON CUP Quarter-finals

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Tottenham (H) 1  
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## Arsenal's problems mount as Uefa bans Dixon and Parlour

Martin Thorpe

**A**RSENAL's poor disciplinary record was pushed back into the spotlight yesterday when Uefa banned the club's two players for at least one game following an elbowing incident which the referee originally missed.

Dixon's team-mate Ray Parlour has also been suspended for at least one match after being sent off in the same Champions League tie against Lens for kicking out at the French midfielder Cyril Rool.

The episodes took place near the end of last Wednesday's game in which Arsenal lost to Lens and as a result failed to reach the quarter-finals of the competition.

Both players will be banned for Arsenal's final Group E game at Panathinaikos next Wednesday but they could have their suspensions extended when Uefa's disciplinary committee meets again next month. Any further ban



Dixon... elbowing offence

would be carried over to the next time the pair play in Europe.

Dixon was left in apparent agony after an angry exchange with the Lens striker Tony Vairelles, which resulted in the Frenchman being sent off.

The Swedish referee Anders Frisk took no action against Dixon at the time. But after being asked by Uefa to



Parlour... facing ban

watch video evidence, Frisk decided that Dixon started the trouble and was guilty of unsporting behaviour by elbowing Vairelles in the back.

Yesterday's Uefa statement said: "We have decided that disciplinary action must be taken even if the referee was not able to see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision." Arsenal

declined to comment. Uefa categorised Parlour's offence as "an act of violence" which could mean his ban being extended to three games.

Meanwhile, Lens are unhappy at Uefa's decision to uphold Vairelles' red card which means he misses the final Champions League game against Dynamo Kiev next week, which Lens must win to reach the quarter-finals.

"The French club said: 'Everyone at Lens is very disappointed, sad and angry. Tony did not do anything wrong and if you watch the video he was pushed in the back and never hurt Dixon.'"

"Tony is shocked. He has never had a card in his life before this. He likes to think of himself as a fair player."

On another matter, Lens have not, contrary to speculation, formally complained to Uefa over the possibility of Arsenal fielding a weakened side next week against the Greeks, who are rivals for a place in the last eight of the competition.

## Cuba to play in German League

**B**ONNER, a German Fourth Division club, have come up with an audacious plan to improve their promotion chances: signing up the entire Cuban team.

They hope to secure the deal with the Cuban federation next week.

The idea is that the Cubans would come to Bonn to benefit from German facilities and coaching, and Bonner, in return, could field any of the Cubans.

It arose after Bonner officials watched a video of Cuba playing Brazil earlier this year. "We thought maybe we could bring one or two Cuban players to Germany," said Rainer Thomas, the club coach.

"Things developed to the extent that the Cubans said an entire team would train here, gain playing experience and play international games against other smaller nations."

Thomas and his chairman Hans Viol are due to fly out to Cuba on Sunday to sign the "cooperation agreement". "The Cubans want their team in Europe to learn tactics," Viol said.

## Scotland's players' union decides bigger is beautiful

**T**HE Scottish Professional Footballers' Association will ask for the Premier League to be extended to 16 teams to prevent leading players from suffering burn-out and smaller clubs from having to go part-time.

The SPFA will make the request after a survey of their members yesterday revealed widespread dissatisfaction with the new Premier League set-up, which is in its first season.

Many top players complained of playing too many matches while First Division players expressed anxiety about their jobs, with many smaller full-time clubs considering a part-time future.

The SPFA believes increasing the Premier League from 10 to 16 teams will provide a solution for both problems.

A 16-team league would mean each club playing 30 games, six fewer than this other four times. The new proposal would also give six clubs currently outside the top flight the financially attractive prospect of games against Celtic and Rangers.

The Scottish Premier

## FA warning for Millwall

**M**ILLWALL were yesterday found guilty of failing to control their spectators following pitch invasions during the match against Manchester City earlier this season.

But the Second Division club have escaped punishment after the incidents during the league game at the New Den on September 23.

Millwall have been warned about their future conduct and the FA will continue to monitor the situation closely with the club.

After a hearing lasting more than six hours, an FA crowd control commission said it was impressed by the south London club's determination to prevent any further problems.

The match referee Matt Messias gave evidence to the commission about the pitch invasions and incidents of coin throwing during the second half of the 1-1 draw.

Police Superintendent Trevor Brydges said there had been four invasions during the game and police had to stop fans reaching players and officials after Manchester City scored a late equaliser.

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## Rugby Union

## Catt to purr as Dawson sets sights on new goal

Robert Armstrong reports on England's latest reshuffle as the world's best beckon

ENGLAND, short on results and self-esteem, lurched uncertainly towards Saturday's international against South Africa, having once again reshuffled their personnel for what is likely to be their toughest encounter at Twickenham this season.

Far from establishing the continuity he has sought, the coach Clive Woodward has made three changes, all in the back division, from the line-up that started last weekend's Test defeat by Australia.

Nick Beal, Northampton's utility player, is called up at full-back in place of the injured Matt Perry. Dan Luger is preferred to Austin Healey on the left wing, and Mike Catt, a first-half replacement for the injured Paul Grayson last Saturday, keeps his place

at fly-half despite a patchy 50-minute performance. In sharp contrast to the Springboks, who named an unchanged team, England have been forced into fresh experiments due to untimely injuries and a palpable loss of form by Healey, Grayson (knee), Perry (concussion) and Will Greenwood (groin). All failed to come under starter's orders on Tuesday when Woodward held the first of several intensive squad sessions at Roehampton. Their absence cannot be adequately covered: all were recognised decision-makers.

While South Africa are seeking a world record of 18 successive Test wins, England in effect are throwing Luger in at the deep end after two games that barely tested his potential. Woodward has left the fully-fit David Rees on the bench notwithstanding his frequent declarations that the Sale three-quarter is "my favourite wing". Healey, too, will be a replacement, providing scrum-half cover for Matt Dawson.

Controversially, Woodward has given Dawson the job of goal-kicker, a task he has occasionally undertaken for Northampton, though never at representative level. Whether the coach ought to have persevered with Catt is hard to say with confidence: the Bath fly-half missed important kicks against Australia last Saturday, and he has not been able to get his head around the game since he was shown at club level.

"I'm not the Wizard of Oz and I cannot conjure up an international goal-kicker from nowhere," said Woodward at Twickenham yesterday. "I'm



A scrum do... Nick Mallett, South Africa's coach, monitors his pack at the Honourable Artillery Ground in the City of London

TOM NEWBOLD

confident Matt will do a good job for us. I'm still bitterly disappointed we lost to Australia but there is no tension, training has been going really well, and we're looking forward to the game and hopefully getting a result."

True to his credo of picking skilful, all-round ball players, Woodward has recalled, on his 28th birthday, the experienced Beal, one of the mainstays of last summer's ill-fated tour to the southern hemisphere. A member of England's successful sevens squad in the early Nineties, Beal fulfils the requirements of a modern full-back, rock solid under the high ball and

always eager to attack space at pace. On last year's Lions tour to South Africa he was used exclusively on the wing. Strangely, Woodward has decided to persevere with the inconsistent Catt despite insisting that the weakest part of England's game was "poor decisions behind the scrum". Alex King, the Wasps fly-half who has come into the training squad for the first time this season after a mediocre summer tour, will be among the seven replacements. Clearly England must hope that Catt will now be able to focus more effectively on his role as playmaker.

England have drawn com-

fort from their achievement in denying Australia a try, hence the vote of confidence for the Bath centre Phil de Glanville, who was outstanding in defence. Perhaps wisely Woodward has chosen to leave well alone in the back row which looked naive in the last 10 minutes when shrewd option-taking would have shut Australia out instead of gifting them a decisive penalty.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Nick Mallett, who is just one win away from entering the pantheon of Test coaches, good fortune has been with us, especially in the Wales game when I didn't expect

slam in the UK. "I don't think there will be many grand slam tours in the future — professional rugby has changed all that. My players are very aware of what they've achieved so far — by nature South Africans are winners but we are also judged on how well we win."

Mallett summed up South Africa's task against England, whom they beat 18-0 in Cape Town last July: "My job is to get results. I'm doing everything in my power to make it easy for my players to go out and perform. Nevertheless, good fortune has been with us, especially in the Wales game when I didn't expect

Graham Henry to get so much improvement out of his players."

Scotland have drafted in Willie Anderson, the Glasgow prop, and Cammy Mather, the New Zealand-born flanker, for their first international in Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Spain at Murrayfield.

Spain last night won a place in next autumn's World Cup when they defeated Portugal 21-17 in front of 112,300 supporters at Murrayfield. Portugal, who scored the only tries of the game through Thierry Teixeira and Roban Hofman, must play off against Uruguay for a finals place.

## Jones aiming for new targets

Paul Rees on how the former captain of Wales is getting back on his feet

GWYN JONES, the former Wales captain whose career ended a year ago when he suffered a serious spinal cord injury and was confined to bed for four months as a result, is winning his battle to walk again unaided.

Jones's world fell apart when he sustained a serious neck injury in a ruck, playing for Cardiff against Swansea. But he will spend next week's first anniversary of the tragedy expecting to make a full recovery off the pitch, even though he will never play rugby again.

The 26-year old Jones hopes to resume his medical studies next year and follow in the footsteps of both his parents and qualify as a doctor.

"It has been a long year," said Jones. "There were times, especially at the beginning, when I was afraid of what the future would bring. You have to set yourself one goal at a time."

"My first was just to get out of bed and be able to stand in front of a mirror unaided. Now it is to be able to run again, which I am told I should be able to do in 12 to 18 months."

Jones is walking only with the aid of crutches and he has yet to regain full dexterity in his arms and fingers. He announced his retirement from the game a few days after the horrific injury.

"I do not blame the game for what happened to me," insisted Jones. "I remain a huge fan of rugby union and if I ever have a son I would not discourage him from playing."

"What happened to me was an unfortunate accident. I do not feel bitter about it because harbouring resentment would only impede my progress. Rugby is a physical contact sport and players are bigger and stronger than ever before. Injuries happen."

"My ambition now is to do the things I used to take for granted, such as running. I am just grateful that the dark days which immediately followed my injury are now behind me."

Jones was speaking before Saturday's meeting between Swansea and Cardiff, 51 weeks to the day after his injury. He will not be watching, however, because of work.

"I am a summariser with the Welsh language station S4C and I will be a few miles away at Llanelli who are playing Pontypridd in the Welsh Premier Division," he said.

## Rugby League

## Cup hopes hit as Britain split

Andy Wilson

IRELAND and Scotland will be represented for the first time at the 12th World Cup in Europe in 2000, following the International Federation's acceptance of a proposal to split the Great Britain team into the four home nations in Sydney yesterday.

The decision can only hinder the chances of Andy Goodway, the Great Britain coach, and now England coach, against the Australians and New Zealand. He is certain to lose a number of key players, such as Iestyn Harris to Wales and Terry O'Connor to Ireland for the tournament to be held in Great Britain, almost the possibility of one qualifying pool in France.

As Andy Farrell said: "We would have a better chance if we went into the World Cup as Great Britain. However, the game's authorities are keen to extend the experiment to Glasgow and Dublin. It will also boost the chances of securing funding for the tournament from the UK Sports Council."

"We now have the format for an exciting competition which should help raise interest in rugby league," said the RFL chief executive Neil Tun-

ncliffe. Harris welcomed the decision: "The 1995 World Cup was terrific, and showed how the Welsh like their rugby league. We took 10,000 to Old Trafford for the semi-final against England, which to me shows that it wouldn't make sense to just have Great Britain entering in 2000."

The Tri-Nations series which met with moderate success in Ireland, Scotland and France last year will be extended next year to include England and Wales, allowing all the home nations to prepare for the World Cup. The federation also voted to accept Louis Luyt's proposals to stage the World Nines at Ellis Park for the next three years, starting in February, almost certainly ending hopes of a World Club Championship between Wigan and Brisbane.

It added a Great Britain versus New Zealand Test in Johannesburg for November, and introduced a number of changes to the game's international laws, most notably a return to the old kick-off rule where the non-scoring team restarts play, and a new rule where touch-kicking kicks from inside one team's 40-metre area to the opposition's 20 will be rewarded with head and feed at the ensuing scrum.

## Squash

## Hill confirms reputation with quarter-final berth

Richard Jago in Doha

ANTHONY HILL, whose disciplinary record is as long as that of the other players put together, has this week maintained his reputation as one of the more talented and by far the loquacious of the leading contenders at the Mahindra World Open.

Yesterday the Australian reached the quarter-finals for the fifth time in a week in which his misadventures have yet again had officials and spectators responding with a mixture of amusement and outrage.

Hill began the tournament by being reported to the Professional Squash Association for a row with the organisers about the schedule, continued with a code violation warning for persistent late-coming, and followed it with a furore when he vomited on to his shirt.

Hill has been banned from

playing for his country until the year 2001 and most of his antics have been watched by Geoff Hunt, the national head coach, which augurs ill for a return to the Australian team. This must be a worry as he is the only Australian survivor in a last eight which is also without the British national champion Simon Parke, beaten by John White, an erstwhile Australian.

White will this month play in the Scottish National Championships. He has acquired a British passport and two seeded victims, making it, technically at least, the first time two Scots have reached the last eight. The other is the favourite Peter Nicol, who survived a scare before maintaining his attempt to become the first British man to win the world title. Nicol recovered from 6-12 in the fourth game to win 15-13, 15-5, 12-15, 15-12 against another Australian Billy Boddrell.

## Golf

## Tiger game and ready to play a damp Sun City

Martin Ollingham at Sun City

THE TIGER, who came face to face with a lion earlier in the week, this morning expects to tee off his campaign to earn the game's richest prize, the Million Dollar Challenge.

Tiger Woods, who heads a 12-man field which includes Colin Montgomerie and Lee Westwood, arrived in South Africa on Monday and was immediately whisked off to meet Nelson Mandela at his Johannesburg home.

Then it was off to Sun City, a two-hour drive, where Woods was taken on a dusk tour of the gamepark attached to the resort. "I watch the Discovery Channel a lot but this is the first time I have seen a lion in the flesh."

Woods also caught sight of elephants, buffalo and a rhinoceros. Such was his fascination with the tour that he missed the tournament organisers' traditional welcoming party for the players.

The participation of the world's leading black sportsman is something of a coup

for a tournament which was viewed with a degree of hostility during the apartheid years. Contempt for international sportmen competing in South Africa was probably at its zenith in 1997, when Ian Woosnam became the first British winner.

These days the tournament tends to attract the players it wants. Woods's participation in 20 event where the winner gets \$1 million — \$225,000 — and the last-place man takes home \$100,000 is an endorsement of that.

"Nick Price and Ernie Els have been on at me for some

time to come here," he said yesterday.

Unusually wet weather on the highveld has limited the number of spectators to the Gary Player Country Club course, which is regarded by another of his rivals, Bernhard Langer, as one of the top three in the world. Throughout his round Woods was shadowed by an army of teenaged black admirers.

"They were very supportive... real neat," was Woods' impression of his new-found disciples. As is the fashion in these parts, the kids had been

bussed in from a nearby township.

Whether the youngsters, or anyone else for that matter, will be behind the ropes today remains to be seen. With 75 millimetres of rain — over three inches — falling in 20 hours yesterday, a prompt start is thought unlikely.

Yesterday's pro-am was cancelled and further rain is forecast for today. The tournament chairman Tobin Prior said that if the today's play has to be postponed, two rounds will be played tomorrow. "We want a single round finish on Sunday," he said.

## Sport in brief

## Moorcroft rewarded for hard work

Duncan Mackay

DAVID MOORCROFT has been appointed chief executive of UK Athletics, the new governing body for the sport. It is his reward for helping to successfully guide British athletics through the most difficult crisis in its history.

Moorcroft was the chief executive of the British Athletic Federation for a week before it went into administration in October 1997 with debts of nearly \$2 million. The former 5000 metres world record holder had been acting chief executive for UK Athletics '98, the interim body set up following the BAF's demise.

He was one of three candidates shortlisted and was the unanimous choice of an interview panel headed by David Hemery, the new president of



Moorcroft... given the nod

UK Athletics, and also included Sir Christopher Chataway, a predecessor as 5000m world record holder.

"The last 15 months have seen great turbulence within the sport but, in the course of our year-long consultation process and an outstanding year of athletic performances, we have hopefully reached a point where we have solid foundations on which to build a fantastic future for the sport," said Moorcroft.

"There are still many challenges ahead but I think we have the will, the people and the vision to face them with confidence."

## Ayr shown European exit

MANCHESTER became Britain's last hope of a place in the hockey's European League play-offs next month after Ayr lost 6-5 in Mannheim yesterday, writes Vic Batchelder.

The Storm's fate will be decided when they meet Tampere in Finland next Tuesday, while Ayr's was sealed 53 seconds from time after Mannheim had withdrawn their goalie for an extra skater. Ayr had needed only to avoid defeat in regulation time because under the League's rules, which do not allow for drawn games, sides beaten in overtime or on penalties retain a point. That was all the Scottish side needed.

They had gone into the game leading Division F by two points from their German opponents and the Russian side AK Bars Kazan, who they had already beaten twice, with the top two going through. In the event Mannheim were joined in the play-offs by Kazan who beat the Czech side Litvinov.

Afterwards Ayr's coach Jim Lynch said: "On one hand it's very disappointing, especially giving up a late goal like that. It's hard to take right now. But maybe in a few days we'll be able to look back with pride at our first season in the European League. We're pleased to have taken it right to the wire."

## Cricket

The West Indians are still looking for their first win in South Africa after five matches following their defeat by an Eastern Province XI on a faster run rate in a one-day game in Port Elizabeth yesterday. Rain had restricted the tourists' innings to 45 overs and then forced an early finish after the home side had batted for 38.1 overs.

Eastern Province made 209 for six, thanks mainly to a 118-run third-wicket partnership between Graham Grace and Justin Kemp, in reply to the West Indians 229 for eight. Floyd Reifer was their top scorer with 53, including 11 fours and a six.

## Rugby League

The Australian utility back Dean Hanger, who has been released by Huddersfield, will join Warrington next season pending a medical, writes Andy Wilson.

## Basketball

The sport's world governing body Fiba has upheld a two-year drug ban on the Puerto Rican centre Jose Ortiz. Ortiz, who has played in the NBA, tested positive for the banned steroid stanozolol during the World Basketball Championship last summer in Athens.

## Swimming

Jenny Thompson of the United States set two records in the World Cup in College Station, Texas. Thompson broke her own world short-course mark for the 100m butterfly, winning in 58.90sec, and then bettered her US record for the 50m freestyle, clocking 24.58.

## Bowls

The world champion Paul Foster, who won the Scottish singles title on Monday, beat Mervyn King in the Glasgow Classic, a replay of the world indoor final Foster won 7-2, 7-0, writes Ron Wylie.



Good news Eileen, you're no longer the funniest thing in football



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# SportsGuardian

## Worthington Cup quarter-final

Tottenham 3 Manchester United 1

## Armstrong heads United off at the pass

David Lacey

**T**WO headers from Chris Armstrong in the space of six minutes early in the second half took Tottenham Hotspur towards the last four at White Hart Lane last night despite a spirited performance by an odd Manchester United mix of regulars and occasionals.

Even then Teddy Sheringham's header, from Phil Neville's cross, offered United a glimmer of hope, whereupon David Ginola's fierce long-range drive five minutes from time restored the margin.

Tottenham and United looked at this tie from contrasting perspectives. For Spurs it was an opportunity to take a significant step towards European football next season and continue their rehabilitation under George Graham, for United a further chance to give young players experience.

In fact, Alex Ferguson was also keen to give experienced players a leg-stretcher after injuries, hence the presence of Sheringham, Ryan Giggs and Ronny Johnsen. And with David Beckham and Jesper Blomqvist on the bench it was clear Saturday's game at Villa Park and the Champions League encounter with Bayern Munich in a week's time had not completely blinded United to the worth of the Worthington Cup.

Not that Tottenham were facing the real United, not with Neville partnering Nicky Butt in central midfield while tyros like Michael Clegg and John Curtis guarded the flanks. Ginola was quick to remind Clegg of what he was up against as Tottenham swept forward on a broad, brisk front although the first clear opening was United's creation.

In the fourth minute Sheringham sent in Ole Solskjaer on the left and the Norwegian's low centre reached Butt, whose low shot was saved by Ian Walker, making only his third appearance of the season. For a while thereafter United spent more time containing than attacking.

Nevertheless they might have taken the lead midway through the half as Giggs began to get into his old stride. Clegg found him on the left and Giggs's through ball was perfectly timed to coincide with Neville's run past a square defence, but Neville's narrow-angled shot was high and wide.

By now Spurs had lost some of their earlier momentum. They were winning the odd corner and firing in the occasional long shot but their half looked disjointed. And when Allan Nielsen did win possession near the edge of the United penalty area, courtesy of Johnsen's slip, he was quickly tackled by Curtis before he could shoot. Colin Calderwood then sliced the loose



Root room... Teddy Sheringham, who later scored for Manchester United, finds space for a shot

RUSSELL BOYCE

ball into the crowd. Solskjaer went much closer at the other end just past the half-hour.

shot which beat Walker before narrowly missing the far post.

Twice towards the end of the first half Nielsen's touch let him down. A backheel from Armstrong found Anderson in space and his pass sent the Dane through, but the chance was lost. Then Nielsen exploited an error by the promising Jonathan Greening only to lose control again.

The game badly needed a goal to give it a plot, and one duly arrived three minutes into the second half as Spurs exposed United's defence in the air. Nielsen gathered a pass from Ginola and centred, Ruel Fox, who had replaced Calderwood, nodded the ball on and Armstrong's header beat Raymond Van Der Gouw in a high arc.

Solskjaer immediately responded with a well-struck 20-

yard shot — just to remind White Hart Lane that United really cared — but their cause looked forlorn when Armstrong darted to the near post to glance in Ginola's cross.

With Anderson operating in midfield now that Fox was on the right, there was a better balance to Tottenham's game. Further United misses — Solskjaer with a header, Butt with a volley — warned Spurs against complacency. They still had some defending to do. But as United strained to get back into the contest so they risked exposure to Tottenham counter-attacks.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Young, Campbell, Sinton; Nielsen, Anderson, Calderwood (Fox, 4-6), Ginola, Armstrong, Iversen.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Van Der Gouw; Clegg, Berg, Johnsen, Curtis (Blomqvist, 80); Greening (Beckham, 87min), P. Neville, Butt (Holman, 71), Sloger, Sheringham, Solskjaer.

Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough).

## Distaff side draw level in people's game



Laura Thompson

**A**LITTLE while ago, I wrote a magazine article about David Beckham in which I described, with what seemed appropriate lyricism, the elegance of his play. In response to these stylistic curlicues, I received a letter from a female football "fan" saying something to the effect that I should get back to Harvey Nichols and leave the game to those plain speakers who really knew about it. Quite flustering, really.

Ridiculous though this letter was, it said something about the current relationship between football and the sexes. What struck me most of all was that men would not have dared to write in this way. Over the past few years, the poor things have learned that they must smile nobly as women talk about the game, deferring to all querulous assertions that David James is the best goalkeeper in England.

Also striking was the fact that a woman could now see herself as the guardian of football's soul, defending it against the evil forces of emasculation.

Indeed, it could almost be said that my letter-writer was speaking for all the guys, saying, as some of them would undoubtedly like to, that football is not for people who think that an early bath is what you have before a 7pm reservation at The Ivy, or muse that the character of Tony Adams could have been created by Eugene O'Neill. It is for people who appreciate Colin Hendry and know that English was once the official language at Stamford Bridge.

Whether these people are men or women is no longer the point. Over the past decade, women have become so assimilated into football fandom that it is meaningless to talk about them as masses. When members of the crowd are stopped before a game to deliver an opinion to the television cameras, the fact of them being male or female is now completely irrelevant. No one takes any notice. What matters is whether or not they are *true fans*.

Of course, what we might call the Harvey Nichols tendency were never going to be-

come lovers of the game, however beautiful it might be sometimes. Indeed, now that I am one of them, they seem to have pretty much evaporated. The novelty of wearing hipsters' labelled Decadilly has presumably worn off. "The material those shirts are made in... my dear!"

It was always easy to despise these daff girls, just as it was fun to mock the Gaze Agonistes School of Writing and that creature of urban myth, the dinner-party football expert. All of this excitable ephemera had been brought into life by fashion and was destined, therefore, to die by it.

But it had, of course, its lasting effects. These are not just that Vinnie Jones has become a national icon, or that George Graham's favourite player is now a skilful dreamboat for-signer on Hello! magazine's A list. It is that the money spun by peripheral activity has fed the game and changed it forever.

As a matter of honour, the true fans affects to loathe this, to yearn for the days when David Beckham went home from matches on the bus. The true fan is a hater of stock markets and chairmen — especially those such as the former Everton incumbent Peter Johnson who are not loyal to one club — of Rupert Murdoch and the sums charged for tickets and replays.

All of which is perfectly understandable: capitalism and sport are very uneasy bedfellows.

**B**UT how can you square this puritanical contempt with the joy that the true fan evinces when, for example, an Alan Shearer "comes home" to Newcastle for £15 million? Where exactly, is that kind of money meant to come from, if not, directly and indirectly, from the forays that football has so triumphantly made into the despicable world beyond?

Other sports would kill to be able to do this. Indeed, you hear from them a good deal of football-influenced talk, about marketing and broadening of appeal, but it won't work — at least, not to anything like the same indestructible degree. How can it, when no other sport has anything like that vast army of true fans, exploited and demanding in equal parts, whose appetite for football seems to grow by what it feeds on? Perhaps other sports should simply follow the resigned example of horse racing. In an attempt to broaden its own appeal, it now puts televised football in the grandstand bars.

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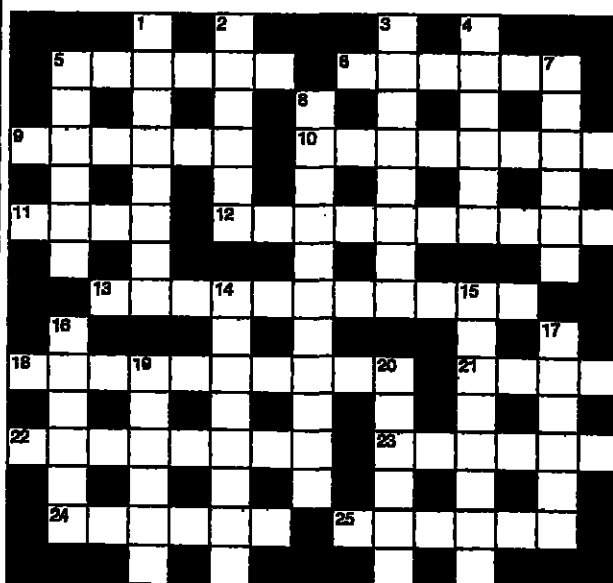
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**"I'm saving taxpayers millions of dollars by stopping some of these babies from being born. I'm making a difference. Too many people have kids who have no business having them." The woman paying drug addicts to be sterilised**

**G2 p8**

## Guardian Crossword No 21,448

Set by Shed

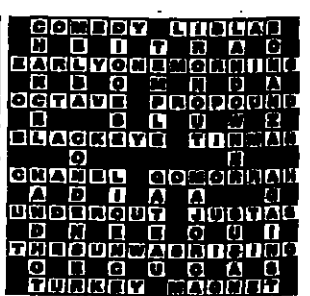


### Across

- 5 One-dimensional Shakespearean kept in (6)
- 6 They might give a lot to be born indoors (6)
- 9 Uncovers a revolutionary (inactive) (6)
- 10 How to get out of starting package holiday in Cornish town (8)
- 11 Intent to take care (4)
- 12 Cheated in race, taking cash sweetener (10)
- 13 Likely prospect for smuggler on border (6,6)
- 18 Trojan heroine or Roman died horribly hurt (10)
- 21 Withdraw or draw back, carrying the Cross (4)
- 22 Little Hitler backing the transport I catch (8)
- 23 Dry fruit in the academician's home (6)

### Down

- 1 Give rise to information in "Terminator" (8)
- 2 He wrote about Portugal, the setting for many a novel (8)
- 3 Work hard to penetrate punctuation on the last page (8)
- 4 Burrower in wood (6)
- 5 Dog Star? (6)
- 7 It helps to heal wounded heart in divorce (8)
- 8 Voter with tangled feet gets sharp shock (11)
- 14 Propose to the bird in 'Fame' (8)
- 15 Faculty crew receiving the go-ahead (8)
- 16 Establish interim settlement



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,447

when Government leader spots uprising (6)

17 One giving orders to wit? That's right (6)

18 Somewhat sooner (8)

20 Unoriginally maudlin tongue-lashing (8)

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The guide books led teenage backpacker Joel Emond to China's spectacular Lake Chon — and straight to a month-long ordeal in a North Korean detention centre. Emma Brockes reports

# Treks of his tears

When 19-year-old Joel Emond stumbled across a group of green-shirted men and women at a lakeside in China, he thought they were soldiers enjoying a day out. When they failed to respond to his Chinese greeting, he thought they were Korean tourists.

It wasn't until he was staring down the barrel of an AK-47 that Emond realised they were neither tourists and he was in big trouble. The teenage backpacker had wandered over to the Korean border and straight into a place no guide books go: the inside of a North Korean detention centre.

That was on September 28. Five days ago Emond had finally returned back to Britain, exhausted, but so unimpressed by the month-long ordeal that he had extended his visa to do more travelling.

"I started to get suspicious that day when I noticed that the soldiers' uniforms were a dull, green cotton, unlike the Chinese ones. Then I saw that the little badges they were wearing had a face on them that wasn't Chairman Mao's. I recognised it as that of the Korean leader, Kim Il Sung, and began to wonder if I was actually still in China."

In fact Emond, on a three-month trek after taking A-levels at his school in Bristol, had crossed the border several kilometres back while enjoying a walk around Lake Chon. About 1,000km from Peking, the lake (its name means 'Heavenly pool') is recommended by guide books for the volcanic scenery. It affords of the Changbai Shan mountains. What they fail to mention is the fact that it bleeds the Chinese/North Korean border. "It's a pretty big mistake to make," Emond says.

He was last forgetting into weeks ago when, realising the guide books were wrong, he tried to retreat. "I started walking slowly back, with increasing speed, but it was too late. A couple of infantrymen placed a hand on my shoulder and forced me back." He was marched up a hill to a wooden

hut where a Korean officer was making a phone call on an old wind-up machine. After being searched, he was promised a swift return to China, but it would be 32 days before the authorities released him, and not before he had been ridiculed, suffered food poisoning and threatened with guns.

The intimidation started almost immediately. A soldier in his early twenties began waving his gun around. When he pointed it at my head there seemed to be significant risk that I was going to be shot. He wasn't harmed, however, but bundled on to a jeep and, after a five-hour journey, deposited at a military barracks and told he was back in China. Only after he saw the officers laughing, did he realise that he wasn't. It was a practical joke, pulled off to impress the junior soldiers who had spilt out on to the courtyard to gloat at him.

As he is 6ft tall, red haired and glaringly un-oriental, he made for a strange spectacle to the bored men. They were laughing that they had never seen a western nose before, making a joke of the situation, ordering me to stand up and sit down. Emond was just grateful that he was not carrying an American passport.

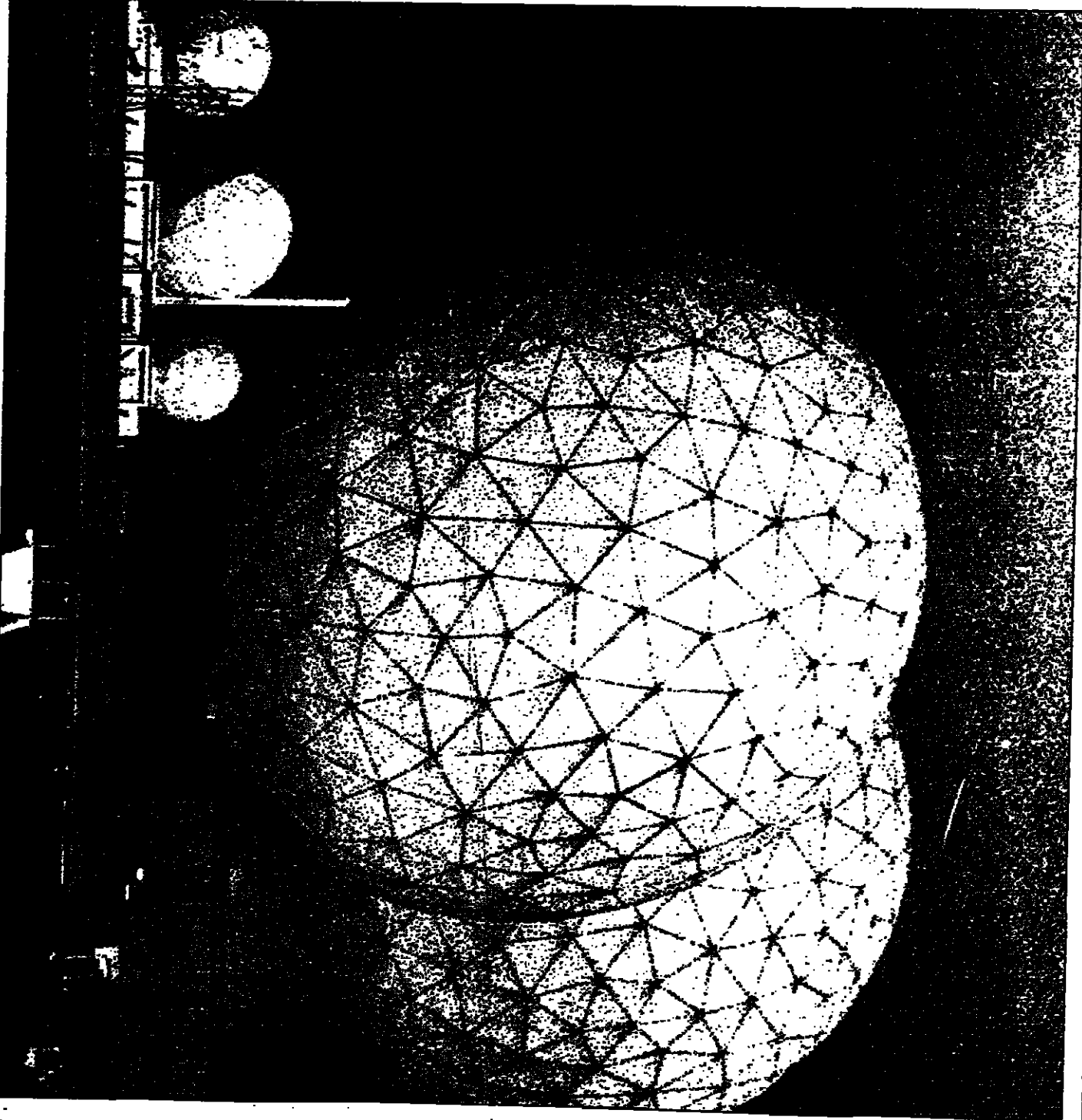
"The anti-American feeling was very strong. It had been an American, I'd have been beaten up." Instead, he was made to stand in a freezing courtyard for five hours before being escorted to a half-way house — another barracks — where he was permitted three hours sleep in an officer's room and then put on a truck for the journey's last leg. Good luck for the journey's last leg. Good

**'I started walking slowly back, with increasing speed, but it was too late'**

Joel Emond spent a month in a North Korean detention centre



online



gather full positional information on any target.

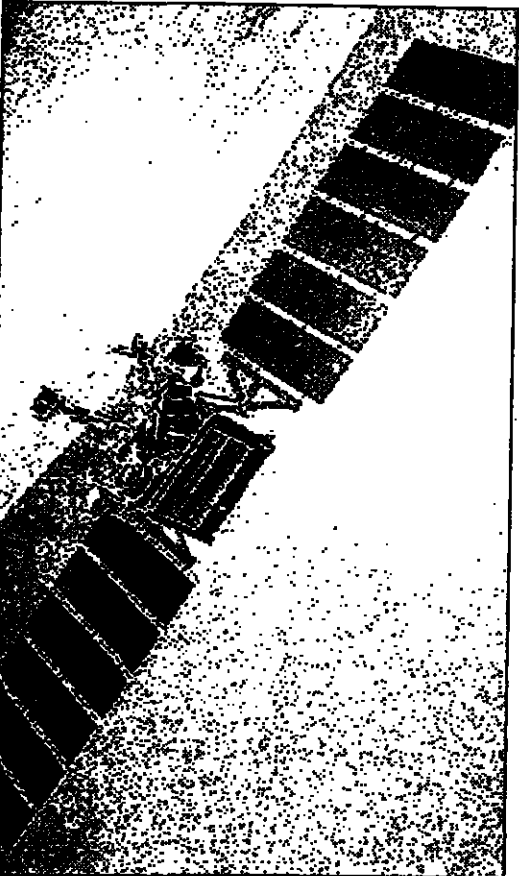
The ability to track missiles in their mid-course phase is crucial to intercepting and destroying them, both in regional wars or if regional powers such as Korea, India, or Pakistan continue to develop long-range weapons. At first this interception will be done by missiles, such as the Patriot system, put on alert in Kuwait a month ago. But there is enormous domestic pressure in the US to take the next step, and use information from the new satellites to intercept missiles long before they are in range of their targets. The ultimate goal is a Ballistic Missile Defence System to protect the US, the shield that Reagan promised US citizens in 1983 to render Soviet missiles "impotent and obsolete".

According to Horner, "around we decide to make the policy decision to have space-based Ballistic Missile Defence, the SBIRS capability gives you the means to point your space-based weapons, because SBIRS gives you the capability of not only seeing the launch pad but also to track them, after the rocket extinguishes and it's cold body in space".

US plans for space-based laser weapon systems have been quietly

making progress throughout the 1990s, without significant controversy or comment. Earlier this year, the US tested a complete aiming and firing system for a space-based laser, claiming afterwards that the technology for aiming the laser accurately had now been fully proved. If such weapons are ever deployed, they will depend primarily on information from the SBIRS to find and destroy their targets.

Critics question the legality of putting weapons of destructive capabilities [in space] is very threatening and certainly should be the subject of an international movement to bar weapons from space," says Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll of the Washington-based Center for Defense Information, a former US director of US Naval operations in Europe. He contends that SBIRS breaches the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, which forbids the superpowers from launching any component of an ABM system into space. "It seems to me self-evident that the plan to put SBIRS up there is a pure violation," he contends.



Horner disagrees. "I've put a space-based laser or space-based system that can fire projectiles on to incoming ballistic missiles, we have not put a weapon in space," he claims. "We've put an anti-weapon in space. It's a neutraliser of weapons."

Menwith Hill's involvement in a revitalised Star Wars programme will increase the international controversy surrounding the centre that has arisen because of its 40-year-old role in intercepting military and civilian communications. In tonight's BBC film, the controversy

Son of Star Wars: Tests on space-based laser weapons (above left), are now said to show that the technology is fully proven. The new satellites will enable missiles to be intercepted long before they strike

will be further fuelled when a former US intelligence officer confirms for the first time that Menwith Hill intercepts commercial information. Over the past year, there has been concern in Europe about Menwith Hill's role in Echelon, a global computer network for processing and disseminating intercepted communications. Echelon, originally known as Project Ears, is run by the NSA in conjunction with agencies in Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. A debate on Echelon was held in the European Parliament in September.

Colonel Dan Smith, former military intelligence attaché at the US Embassy in London until 1993 regularly visited Menwith Hill and worked with the information it intercepted. "In terms of copying up communications, thereby since that role is broadened, there will be conversations or communications which are intercepted which have nothing to do with the military and probably within those there will be some information about commercial dealings," he says.

In 1993, he recalls, there was "some discussion of whether or not the US government — either the [military] service or the National Security Agency — should be employed to collect commercial intelligence." He believes that the decision was then made not to spy for US companies. "In terms of specifically targeting for information of a commercial nature, that is not part of the policy of the government as I understand it," he says.

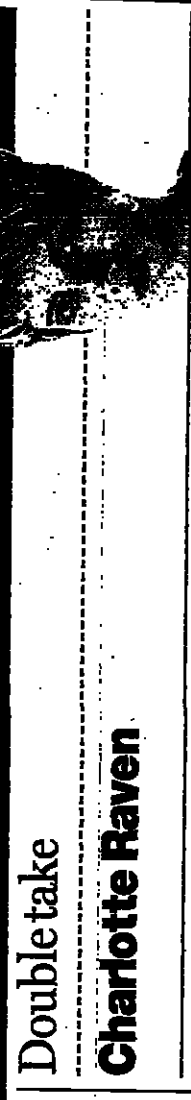
However, Smith's belief that the NSA did not then go ahead and make use of commercial intelligence is contradicted by accounts from other US sources. In 1993, former National Security Council official Howard Trefler described how the European aerospace company Panavia was specifically targeted over sales to the Middle East. "I recall that the words 'Tornado' or 'Panavia' — information related to the specific aircraft — would have been priority targets that we would have wanted information about," he said.

In 1995, the Baltimore Sun reported that the NSA had tapped into a commercial communications satellite and "tapped all the faxes and phone calls between the European consortium Airbus, the Saudi national airline and the Saudi government." The \$6 billion contract subsequently went to the US companies, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. Menwith Hill is the main — and perhaps the only — intelligence station covering Saudi Arabia.

Asked on tonight's BBC programme if official policy not to pass on commercial data meant that such activities did not happen to information intercepted at Menwith Hill, Smith concedes: "Anything would be possible technically. Technically they can scoop all this information up, sort through it and find out what it is that might be asked for. ... But there is not policy to do this specifically in response to a particular company's interest."

Track Star's Edward Trefler, a film for BBC North's *Come Fly With Me*, is due to be broadcast at 7.30pm on BBC2





Double take  
Charlotte Raven

# Coogan's bluff

Every artist hates critics. But for those of us who value a snide remark above a thousand gags, the wreckers of dreams offer a valuable service

**P**oor Steve Coogan. There he is, a humble Japanese, beating a gut on stage every night to increase the sum of our happiness, and someone has to go and spoil it. According to a diary piece in the Guardian on Saturday, Coogan has taken exception to a review of his live performance by this paper's comedy critic Phil Daoust. Daoust, it seems, came to see Coogan in bad faith. He came not as a fan but rather in his professional capacity as an ignorant wrecker of dreams. In a backstage segment of the video of the other, who will receive West End show, *The Man Who Thinks He's a Comedian*, Coogan vents his feelings on the subject.

"Doesn't take right," he quotes from the offending review, as if the critic had poured scorn on everything he stood for. In fact, the piece was rather generous. Keen to give credit where it was due, it simply suggested, not unfairly, that Coogan's comic creations are a little too familiar. "You couldn't call this a disappointing night," wrote Daoust, mildly.

"What's taking a risk?" said Coogan. "It's shaking in the shoulders of someone who makes 9,000 people laugh every night. It's that taking a risk." Maybe it isn't. But for those of us who value a snide remark above a thousand gags, the service is a valuable one.

Who is Coogan to say that getting 9,000 people laughing is a more demanding task than getting 1.2 million Guardian readers sneering? Both feats demand skill and talent, the only difference being that the critic, unlike the comedian, is required to change his material every week. Otherwise we'll still be reading write-ups of the Sex Pistols at the Royal Albert Hall.

As for Coogan's other point — suggesting that a critic should be judged by his own criteria — it is like saying a political columnist should not attack the Government unless he could run the country. Daoust is not in the business of risk-taking. He has chosen, instead, to make a living as a quality controller, grading artistic production as if it were rum cakes or eggs.

This is fair enough if you accept that art is a commodity. Until Coogan gives away free tickets for his extravaganza, punters will want to know what they are paying for. Of course, Coogan might be joking. In which case, his impression of a chippy, egotistical artist only goes as much as possible, in case I ever want to go back there.

**A** far diarrhoea and vomiting. Emond refused to eat until he was given an assurance that the food would be freshly cooked. "They got really upset when I wouldn't eat on the dot of 7pm. It was a good bargaining tool." The phone had been cut off and Emond spent his days lying on the bed listening to the World Service on his shortwave radio. Finally, the official returned and allowed him to leave his room. Emond later discovered that he would be held for at least two years. He visited the hotel shop stocked with out-of-date foreign imports including Durban cigarettes and Johnnie Walker whisky. He also toured the kitchen, where meat was left rotting on the floor.

Meanwhile, the Korean government had contacted the UN who had alerted the British consul in Peking. After two weeks of intense wrangling with the Chinese Public Security Bureau, Emond's release was secured. At Tian on October 29, he was pronounced free and driven to the border, although not before being taken on a sightseeing tour to a 40ft bronze statue of Kim Il Sung. "They were hoping to educate me," he says, although they couldn't have bothered. Emond has retained few hard feelings about the country which detained him. "Except for the military, I found the North Koreans to be very friendly, open people. In fact I tried to apologise as much as possible, in case I ever want to go back there."

**A**bove the Earth, the other station, at Nauru, the other station, South Australia, is the only site outside the US that tracks satellites equipped with infra-red telescopes, which detect the heat emitted as a missile is launched. By 2000, these early-warning satellites will be merged into the SBIRS.

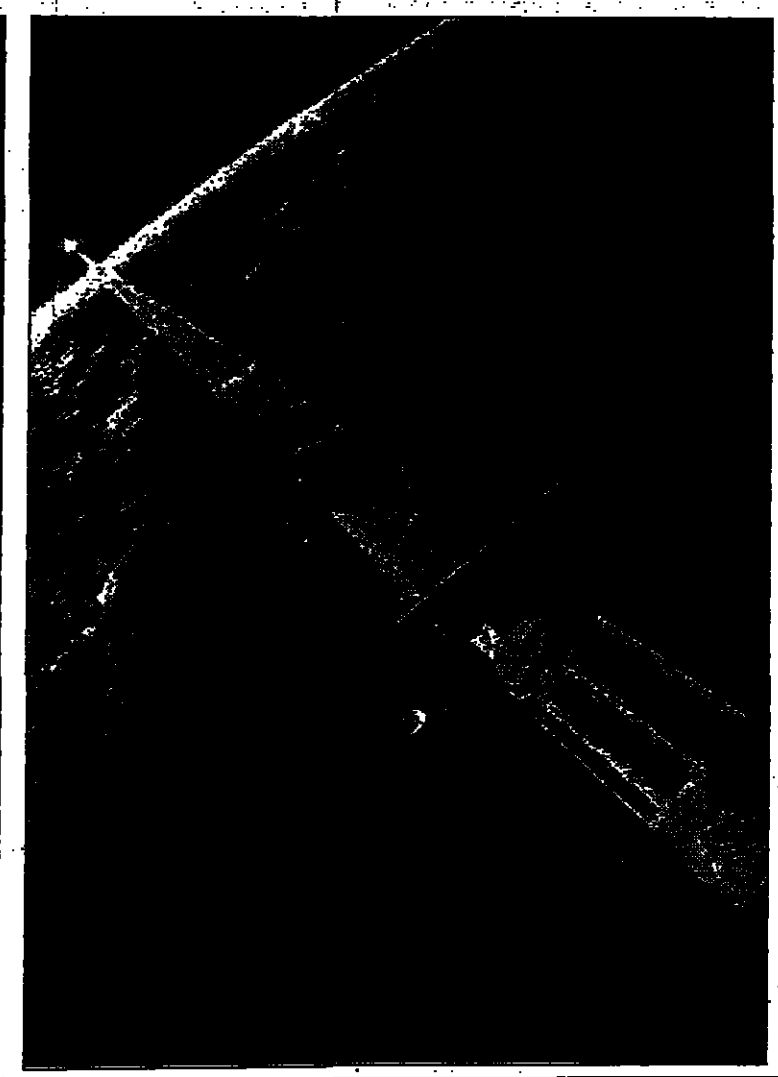
The problem with existing infra-red equipment is that it loses track of missiles when the rocket motors burn out. During the Gulf war, the lack of any system to follow the missiles once they "went cold" limited the effectiveness of the Patriot anti-missile systems that were deployed to defend bases and cities such as Tel Aviv and Jeddah from Scud attacks.

The most important part of SBIRS, which will include up to 30 satellites in three different types of orbits, will be a global network of low orbiting satellites with infra-red cameras, each of which it is hoped will be able to track up to 100 medium- or long-range targets. And this new generation of infra-red satellites will be able to track cold objects with the help of sensors cooled near to absolute zero. Their data processing capabilities are also exceptional, and involve processing more than 2 gigabits per second. A minimum of two satellites are necessary to



Laugh, he nearly cried... Coogan after reading our review

online



# Star Wars strikes back

The "golf balls" of Menwith Hill, housing some of the world's most sophisticated spying tools, are a familiar sight to those driving across the Yorkshire moors. But so formidable is their reputation, they are now part of a Star Wars programme for the 21st century. By **Duncan Campbell**

**R**ONALD Reagan's vision of Star Wars, involving Buck Rogers-style battles in space with laser guns and killer satellites, was once derided as the product of former US presidential preferences for comical over official papers, and the vision of the Strategic Defence Initiative he faded as the Cold War thawed. But now Star Wars is back, and high on the agenda is the establishment of a ground station on the Yorkshire moors. US officials have identified their surveillance centre at Menwith Hill, west of Harrogate, as the key European base to support a new generation of satellites that lie at the core of 21st century space warfare plans.

Menwith Hill, where tracking equipment is housed within familiar white domes or radomes, was expanded earlier this year to include facilities for the Space Based Infra Red System (SBIRS), a missile tracking system that relies on a new generation of highly sensitive, low orbit satellites. This week the Ministry of Defence, which leases the land to the US National Security Agency, confirmed that construction will start next year on two 54-foot high radomes for the SBIRS, and that these will be in service by February 2000.

The ministry has also confirmed that satellites orbiting 22,000 miles

above the Earth, the other station, at Nauru, the other station, South Australia, is the only site outside the US that tracks satellites equipped with infra-red telescopes, which detect the heat emitted as a missile is launched. By 2000, these early-warning satellites will be merged into the SBIRS.

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# May the force be with you

**Tim Radford**  
samples the science books for Christmas

**T**HEIR, and for Turkey in particular, the science books for Christmas. The year of biology, it has been the century of biology. The physicist Paul Dirac turned from cosmic beginnings to that other sweetest of subjects, the life sciences. The search for the Origin of Life (Penguin, £19.99) and the mathematics of life (Penguin, £19.99) are companion to the 10-part television series, *The Life of the Mind* (BBC £19.99). The search for the Origin of Life (Penguin, £19.99) and the mathematics of life (Penguin, £19.99) are companion to the 10-part television series, *The Life of the Mind* (BBC £19.99).

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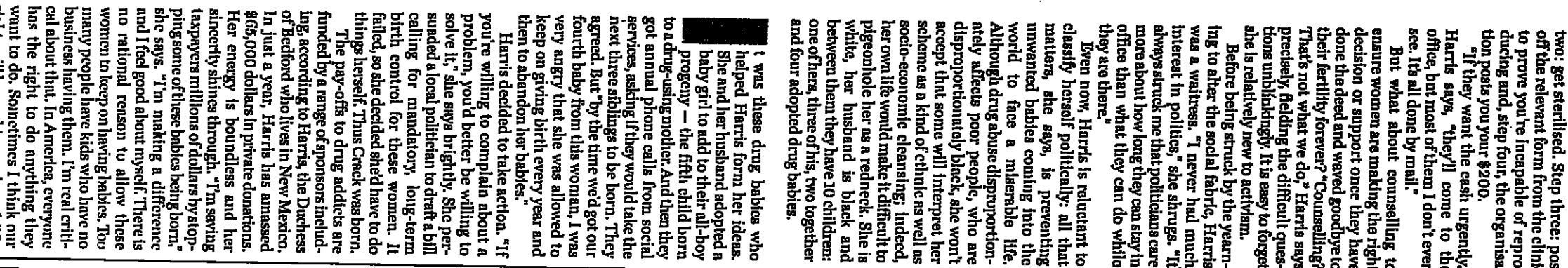




small, or just beginning to pull around the state of California, to try a total of 35 women have been sampled by the crash-for-a-sixth-analysis of male drug usage has so far been requested for the study, but there have been no replies. The tipoffs, however, are spread thin. Harms's latest article both the pro-choice and pro-life

point out that it is not the women who are interested in "babies have a choice," the "babies don't," she Harms, just as far as the conventional transaction can be done by post. Next, and idly, with the emotion cropped out, Shey once go to your local family planning clinic, Shey

point out that it is not the women who are interested in "adults have a choice, the babies don't," she emphasizes. As far as finances are concerned, the whole reproductive transaction can be done by post, silent and tidy, with the emotion stripped out. Step one: go to your local family planning clinic. Step

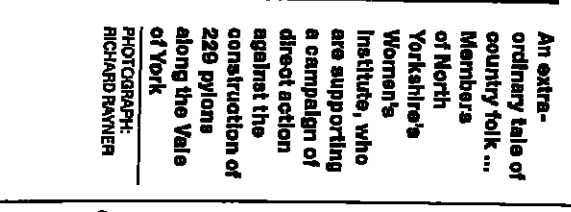


ing some of these babies being born," she says. "I'm making a difference and feel good about myself. There is no rational reason to allow those women to keep on having babies. Too many people have kids who have no idea about that. In America, everyone has the right to do anything they want to do. Sometimes I think our

From jam-makers to eco-warriors:  
**Bea Campbell** pays tribute to that hotbed  
of radicalism, the Women's Institute

the countryside's campaign against the pylons. Like many members of the rural community, she is on a telephone tree — a fast communication system whereby each person relays the next on the list. When the

**An extra-**



research by psychologist Dr David Lewis who says men see shopping as a reward for their work because it is not as shoplifting and stay at home for the good of their health, Daily Mail

it's that strange  
black ring again...  
just comes  
and goes.

